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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 363. SATURDAY, MAY 17, 1913. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page iii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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£1,000
CRICKET
PRIZE!

SEE PAGE 715.

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To the General Secretary,
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Name .....

Address .....

.....

(Membership Badge Sixpence Extra.)

SEE PAGE 715.

CRICKET COMPETITION. NO. 2.

SEE PAGE 715.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches starting on June 2 to June 16.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

MATCHES.

1. Surrey	v.	Hampshire.
2. Yorkshire	v.	Kent.
3. Warwickshire	v.	Northamptonshire.
4. Lancashire	v.	Kent.
5. Somerset	v.	Derbyshire.
6. Notts	v.	Yorkshire.
7. Worcestershire	v.	Gloucestershire.
8. Leicestershire	v.	Sussex.
9. Cambridge Univ.	v.	Hampshire.
10. Middlesex	v.	Surrey.
11. Worcestershire	v.	Kent.
12. Warwickshire	v.	Hampshire.
13. Sussex	v.	Derbyshire.
14. Middlesex	v.	Lancashire.
15. Warwickshire	v.	Sussex.
16. Derbyshire	v.	Hampshire.
17. Leicestershire	v.	Worcestershire.
18. Middlesex	v.	Warwickshire.
19. Notts	v.	Lancashire.
20. Hampshire	v.	Surrey.

I enter JOHN BULL Cricket Competition in accordance with the rules announced on page 715, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

Cut here

Competitor's Guide.

As a guide to competitors we give below **LAST YEAR'S RESULTS** of the matches given on the attached coupon.

1. Match drawn.
2. Match drawn.
3. Warwickshire won by 303 runs.
4. Lancashire won by an innings and 27 runs.
5. Match drawn.
6. Yorkshire won by 5 wickets.
7. Gloucester won by 229 runs.
8. Leicester won by 4 wickets.
9. Match drawn.
10. Match drawn.
11. Kent won by an innings and 55 runs.
12. Match drawn.
13. Sussex won by 8 wickets.
14. Lancashire won by an innings and 8 runs.
15. Warwick won 6 wickets.
16. Hants won by 54 runs.
17. Worcester won by 40 runs.
18. Middlesex won by 9 wickets.
19. Match drawn.
20. Match drawn.

As the competition is one of skill, you are also advised to study the cricket columns and reports given in the daily papers.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 363. Week ending Saturday, May 17th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

A Shrewsbury Echo.

The more one examines the figures of the recent Shrewsbury election, the more remarkable appears the result. We have already quoted the acknowledgment of the Unionist member that his success was due partly to "the valuable help of Liberal and Non-conformist friends," but there are two remarkable facts which we have not yet mentioned. Here is an extract from the speech of the Tory candidate, on the eve of the poll—when the advent of the Business Government man had spread alarm in the Party camps—"I invite my Liberal friends to vote for me this time—*and I am quite willing to assist the Liberals in turn.*" There is an eloquent compact for you! The other fact is that on the day of the poll the *paid agent* of the Liberal party was about all day *wearing the Unionist colours*, and buttonholing electors on behalf of the Tory. And *yet* we nearly got our man in!

Scutari.

Austrian newspapers are already declaring that "no sort of compensation, either of a financial or territorial nature, can be given to Montenegro." Whether at the carving-up this will actually happen remains to be seen, but it is not improbable. Having got Montenegro out of Scutari, Austria will sooner or later march in and purloin it with a big slice of Albania to match. The rest of the Concert will then perhaps protest; in which case Austria will inform them in diplomatic French to protest and be damned. Might is Right.

Lord Curzon's Non-Partyism.

We are naturally suspicious when Lord Curzon, a bitter political partisan all his life, selects the occasion of a meeting of the fiercest of political partisan organisations, the Primrose League, to appeal to an audience to whom political partisanship is their god, to lift the question of national defence "out of the quagmire of party." Non-party when it is useful to obtain a Party object, but not when it isn't! Though Lord Curzon is a Compulsory Service man, neither he nor Lord Roberts, both Tories from their heels to their heads, did anything whatever to force the Tory Government to adopt it; now that the Tories are "out," it is, of course, a different matter. If the Tories were to come in, Lord Curzon would soon be given the tip that the time was "inopportune," and he would then drop it like a hot murphy.

Ramsay's Return.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has returned from India with his blushing honours thick upon him. We presume that he will now resume his duties as Leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and we are bound to say that he appears to have returned in the nick of time. One or two of his flock are getting a bit out of hand, and have actually had the temerity to vote against the Government on the Plural Voting Bill. Ramsay will know how to smooth over this little trouble, and we have no doubt that his more exuberant colleagues will quickly be brought to see the error of their ways. Keir Hardie, however, may be troublesome. Imagine! Keir and Ramsay comparing their Indian impressions

Owning Up.

The War Office having paid up and owned up, we advise it to shut up. We said at the time that the purchase of the Clement-Bayard airship looked like a costly blunder, and now, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, Colonel Seely admits that they made a "mistake." The Government were jockeyed into its purchase by a section of the Press, whose chronic habit is to make a fuss to-day about what it likes to forget to-morrow. Yesterday, for instance, it was boosting the Territorial Army for all it was worth; to-day it is shouting it down for all it isn't.

Signs of "The Times."

Commenting on the reduction in the price of *The Times*, our friend *Truth* makes the suggestion that if the experiment should not prove a success, there is yet one more reform which the "Thunderer" might adopt—namely, "to give up the Party politics business." Who says we are not getting on?

The Sick Man of Westminster.

"I often feel very sick of politics," Mr. Keir Hardie, M.P., told a Walworth audience a few days ago. By a peculiar coincidence, other people often get very sick of Mr. Keir Hardie.

Another £1,000 for Cricket Forecasts. See page 715.

A Legal Loophole.

In these days, bibulous excess is almost universally reprobated, and a floating report that a man has been seen drunk is calculated to do him no manner of good. We are, therefore, somewhat surprised that a King's Bench jury should have refused to find "special" damage in the case of the Lambeth schoolmaster who recently sought to clear himself from a charge of drunkenness brought against him by a member of the local Education Committee. Mr. Justice Phillimore's summing-up was by no means illuminating. After drawing the well-known distinction between slander which is of itself actionable and slander which is only actionable on proof of special damage, his Lordship explained that to speak of an incompetent solicitor, or a careless doctor, would undoubtedly be actionable *per se*. Are we to infer that to charge a professional man with drunkenness would be less damaging in the eyes of the law? No practice could survive such an imputation without serious injury, and if this be really the state of the law of slander, it certainly stands in need of drastic revision.

Sorrows of Mr. Quiverful.

Here is another case which ought to arrest the attention of the Bishop of London, the bachelor prelate who is for ever beseeching the rest of the population to have tremendous families. A father of eleven, employed by the Felixstowe Council at a wage of 21s. a week, has a wife and eight children in the workhouse because he is unable to find a house, at a rent he can pay, big enough to hold them all. The Guardians are mercifully disposed towards him because they are convinced "it is a genuine case where landlords and land agents will not let a house to a working man with a large family." Consequently they have agreed not to make a levy upon him for a fortnight, but if at the end of the period he is still unable to find a house, he will have to join his family in *their* "House," or pay for their maintenance. Can the bishop recommend the poor man to a soft-hearted landlord in the vicinity?

"Clerk to the Universe."

It seems that, in addition to all the other offices we enumerated, Mr. Clare, recently voted Clerk to the Lancashire Insurance Committee, is also Clerk to each of the four Lancashire Licensing Committees and Clerk to the Lancashire Old Age Pensions Committee. Probably the combined salaries paid to this official octopus amounts to not less than £6,000 a year, and this not including his latest legal grab of another £500 a year. Mr. Clare certainly ought to pray for Mr. Lloyd George for all his goodness, day and night.

Giving the Game Away.

Whilst the Liberal Press is going into joyous hysterics over the second reading of the Plural Voting Bill, it is too bad of the *Daily News* to give the game away like this: "Sir John Simon, in a vivacious speech, wound up the debate, of which it is enough to record its infinite dullness. For hours at a time the House was almost empty." And yet nearly 550 M.P.s rushed into the lobbies to vote! Still, where were the other 120? *Isn't* the game nearly up?

Oily Hughes.

That arrant fraud and liar, the "Rev." Wm. Hughes, late director of the bogus establishment known as the British and South African Training Institute, Colwyn Bay, has just paid his debts—1¾d. in the pound! We have purged the beautiful Welsh watering-place of several black scoundrels (we except some of the inmates from the category), and a periodical crop of brown babies.

Muchee Talkee.

Mr. William J. Bryan, America's new Secretary of State, has won a great reputation with his tongue, and if speeches really counted in the diplomacy of nations he would be a Foreign Minister of the very first rank. But the silver-tongued orator of the West has been called to the one post in the Executive where glowing periods are at a discount, and where discreet silence is the thing chiefly to be desired. Mr. Bryan's recent address to the Corps Diplomatique at the farewell dinner to Mr. Bryce was a gem of oratory, but as a practical contribution to world politics it was of small value. His lecture to Europe on the question of armaments was wholly unconvincing. He declares that "there is no question in International politics which cannot be settled by arbitration." None but the most purblind will agree. A thousand Hague Conferences will never "settle" the command of the sea. For us there is no other question.

A Tyrannical Trader.

A recent case brought out significant particulars of the censorship exercised by circulating libraries. They have committees which sit every morning to decide the fate of literary bantlings, and one committeeman said he "saw some 5,000 or 6,000 volumes a year." *Saw* is exactly the right word. Among other parts of his job was to decide what books might appropriately be sent to clients. If the ordinary customer told his grocer to send a pound of tea, he would be surprised to receive cocoa because the grocer happened to consider it more comforting. In the same way, a lady ordering a life of Oscar Wilde should be entitled to protest if she received "Lubbock on Bees." And while the grocer can claim to know something about his customers, the book-lender who boasts of "an enormous number of subscribers" can only go by guesswork. He said, "If a member writes for a certain book, we have the right to make a substitution." We wonder whether that condition is embodied in the subscription form.

Danger!

Mr. Pease adduced some startling and interesting facts in the course of the recent debate in the House of Commons on the medical inspection of school children, and his revelations as to the average standard of physical health among the children of the poor were of a somewhat disquieting character. Unfortunately, Parliament has as yet made no adequate provision for the proper medical treatment of children whom the inspectors certify as unsound. At present, a child must wait till its illness has reached a somewhat advanced stage before receiving attention which would be of tenfold value at an earlier date. Sooner or later the necessity for the establishment of school clinics will have to be faced. This is hard saying at a time when the taxpayer is bearing almost as heavy a burden as he can reasonably be expected to shoulder, but the maintenance of our national stamina is worth a big price.

Nicholls and Newmarket.

Mr. Tom Wing's success at Houghton-le-Spring has induced the Radical Whips to try their luck once more with a candidate of the local preacher brand. Mr. George Nicholls is recommended to the electors of Newmarket, on the ground that "he has preached in most of their chapels." We have no wish to disparage Mr. Nicholls' pulpit eloquence. For aught we know, his evangelical addresses may be a powerful "means of grace" to those who find comfort in that sort of thing, but we are utterly unable to see why his prowess as an amateur parson should be advanced as a reason for electing him to Parliament. A local preacher for Newmarket! Ye gods!

"Continuous Merit" Prizes. A New "Bullets" Feature. See page 722.

"Not At Home."

With reference to the tragic maternity case of a Hull woman, to which the local papers recently gave so much prominence, Dr. Barker writes us to say that he has been exonerated from blame by all the authorities with whom he is concerned. "The whole matter arose from a mistake in the report of the case," he says. "I said in my evidence that 'even if the woman's condition had been diagnosed and treated earlier she would probably have died,'" whereas what the reporter made him say was that "if a doctor had attended her early there was a probability she would not have died"—the precise opposite of the fact. "My sole reason for declining to attend," continues Dr. Barker, "was that I am not in good health, and have had a very heavy winter (not even a Sunday's rest or an ordinary evening off since the beginning of November), and I found it physically impossible to undertake more work that day. I have been in practice in the poorest part of this city for the past ten years, and during that time have done as much work for nothing as any man in England." We thank Dr. Barker for his letter. The original newspaper reports undoubtedly did him an injustice, but, explanation made, we think he comes out of the fierce fires of publicity very well indeed.

A Free Riding Lesson.

We have seen an amusing cartoon illustrating the dangers of attempting to learn certain things from Correspondence Schools—however useful they may be for some subjects. This reminds us of an advertisement we answered many years ago :—

RIDING taught in one lesson for a guinea.

On sending our guinea, we received the following piece of advice, printed on a slip of paper :—

Your head and your heart keep boldly up,
Your hands and your heels keep down,
Your knees keep close to the horse's side,
And your elbows close to your own.

Not bad advice after all, when you come to think of it.

Horrors.

A traveller tells us, apropos of our recent remarks on the blessings of civilisation, that he knows for a fact that in a knacker's yard will be found barrels of fat boiled up from animals which have died of disease, and that it is sold to factories and made into margarine and candles. Well, we don't so much object to its being made into candles, or even into wheel grease, but when it gets into our margarine it is about time to ask some golfer or other to make appropriate remarks.

Two Shillings on Account.

A little while ago a Shepherd's Bush hairdresser injured his hand, and was unable to have a cut at his trade for a fortnight. Having paid in 25s., he naturally expected he would be paid out the same amount, but during the two weeks he received not a penny, and after the two weeks, possibly through the special intervention of Providence or Mr. Lloyd George, he received—two shillings. This is *not* ninepence for fourpence.

Mrs. Grundy at Exeter.

On a hoarding in Exeter there is a pictorial poster of a medicinal wine, consisting of the picture of a Herculean figure whose costume is a replica of the one worn by Adam before he hoisted Eve up the tree and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge which she threw down to him. This poster has evidently attracted the earnest attention of Mrs. Grundy, for the fig-leaf has now disappeared under a copy of a local newspaper conscientiously pasted over it, leaving only to public view the head and neck and feet. Thousands of people probably saw the poster in its original state and were not perturbed—not, in fact, caring a fig.

Curate's Cure of Souls.

One of the curates of St. Peter's, Stockton—he would be a host in himself even if he were the only one—seems to have been taking lessons under Sandow. During the row at the recent vestry meeting, where the Vicar, the Rev. C. G. T. S. Pennington, was called on to resign, the eighteen months' curate, strong in his piety and his youth, thought he would throw his weight into the counsels. "You would not be here," said our dear young friend to the obstreperous crowd, "but for the fact that you are riled and mad to think we are getting on better with you than without you. I heard that you were bringing down three lawyers to help you, but if I could not make more at my job than they can at theirs I would drown myself. You ought not to be tolerated in the place, and if I could get a few decent men round me I feel like horse-whipping the lot of you. You deserve to be tarred and feathered. I would pay a fair price to see such a thing, and see you march on to the river and end your miserable lives." So, onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war. As a musculartarian, the Rev. C. F. Thornton has a future in the Church Militant even greater than his past.

Railway "Season" Holders.

Though the conditions on which season tickets are granted by railway companies are stated on the form of application, no doubt in certain circumstances they impose a very one-sided bargain. For instance, although a Thames Ditton reader on renewing his ticket a week or so ago gave due notice to the London and South Western Company that he would be abroad on business for at least a month, and wished to deposit his ticket, he found himself faced with the regulation that where the period of non-user is not less than a month they (the company) are liable to refund only 50 per cent. of the proportion of their charge for the period, or to extend the availability of the ticket for a period equal to half the period of non-user; this despite the fact that the ticket has to be deposited with them for the whole time, and therefore cannot be used by anybody. Surely if the ticket is not used for a month the fair exchange is to extend its availability for a similar period?

Everything.

Some weeks ago we had a paragraph under the heading, "Worthy of his Hire," relating to a Twickenham stage carpenter who was pretty nearly everything else about the theatre, including the thunder and the lightning and the twitter of the birds upon the trees. A Wiltshire picture-show manager now tells us he can "go one better." He is the manager of the show; he operates the pictures and repairs the films; he books the weekly programmes and takes them back to the railway station on change days; he is engineer of the petrol engine which works the arc lamps; he cleans out the hall every day and distributes the weekly daybills; his wife being the pianiste and his little daughter, aged 7, selling the chocolates, cigarettes, and 'baccy. All this energy and talent notwithstanding, his salary is considerably less than Mr. Clare's.

Salvation Army Graballs.

Another story of the grab-all policy of the Salvation Army. A certain Chief Clerk in one of the provincial offices of the Army was given a handsome present by the staff on receiving farewell orders, though against Regulations. By-and-bye he was ordered to return to the office. One of the subordinate officers then resigned, and the staff made him a present also, but he had no sooner received it than he was threatened with instant dismissal by the Chief Clerk for accepting it, though he had been a chief subscriber to the testimonial actually given to that officer. The names of the parties concerned have been communicated to us.

Pastime and Profit is provided by "Bullets." Prizes value over £1,895 Weekly.

Tit-for-Tat at Southport.

When Alderman Foggitt, J.P. and member of the Watch Committee, turned up at the meeting of the Southport Small Traders' Protection Association the other day, peace was in his heart and an olive branch in his hands. "The season is approaching," he crooned, "and I do not think there is any member of the Watch Committee who wishes to be at loggerheads with the traders of Southport." What they wish is one thing; what they do is another; and the traders might have answered the Alderman in the words of the gent. in Kemble's *Panel*—"Perhaps it was right to dissemble your love, but why do you kick us downstairs?" There is no public demand for the prosecution of small Sunday traders at Southport. In such places open shop is a public convenience. The prosecutions are inspired simply and solely by a handful of self-righteous bigotarians who lead the Watch Committee, who in turn lead the Chief Constable, by the nose. The Corporation themselves are Sunday traders, and if the Watch Committee enforce the statue of Charles II they ought to enforce it against themselves.

"Bums" in the Workhouse.

Curious how mum the Bermondsey Guardians have been about the bums. The night watchman of St. George's Workhouse having got a verdict in the High Court for £20 damages and costs against the Labour Master for wrongfully accusing him of unstable equilibrium, the next business was to get the money—about £100 altogether. As the Labour Master wouldn't or couldn't pay up, the Night Watchman sent a bailiff to the workhouse, and that gentleman solemnly "seized the sticks" in the officers' quarters. A Guardian who presently appeared upon the melancholy scene explained that the goods belonged to the Board, so that the bailiff had to depart disgruntled and unsatisfied. The situation is not without an awkward sort of comedy, for naturally the two officials are at daggers drawn.

A Job for John.

Mr. Burns has for once been caught napping. A Divisional Court has held that a landlord is not liable, under the recent Housing and Town Planning Act, for injuries caused to his tenant's child through structural defects in a cottage. The Act apparently sets up a sort of implied warranty by the landlord that the house is fit for habitation, and damages for breach of warranty cannot be recovered in respect of injuries to a child, because, forsooth, the child is not the contracting party! We cannot believe the Legislature ever intended to relieve the landlord of liability in such cases. A short amending Act should be passed.

A Just Judge.

Mr. Justice Lawrence evidently has little sympathy with "sportsmen" who run up betting accounts and then meanly evade payment by "pleading the Act." His lordship recently administered a well-merited rebuke to a defendant who successfully relied upon the Gaming Act, and marked his disapproval of such a dishonest proceeding by depriving the slim party of his costs. We congratulate the learned judge upon his practical good sense.

More Hard Lines.

A York licensed landlord has been summoned, and convicted, for permitting his wife to play for the amusement of the customers. We do not quarrel with the decision in the present condition of the law, for it is probably unchallengeable, but it is another instance of the extraordinary restrictions imposed on the most taxed, the most harassed, and the most popular trade in the country. Oh, for a—however, bide a wee!

Hungry Amid Plenty.

The case of the widow Gow, of Port Tennant, in Wales, is not uncharacteristic of that of many other beneficiaries of public funds. When the *Charioteer*, of Swansea, went down with all hands, public subscriptions were raised for the widows and orphans. On the award £300 was set aside for Mrs. Gow, widow of the engineer, and her four children. It is twelve months since the calamity, and the £300 has been set aside ever since. Not only so, but if the recent County Court decision of Judge Brynn Roberts, at Swansea, stands, it is going to be set aside for a great many years. What the widow receives is interest on the £300—12s. 6d. a week for the support of herself, a boy of sixteen (earning 5s. a week), and three children—aged two, four and eleven years of age. Five people living, or trying to live, on 17s. 6d. a week in all, and £300 "for the benefit of the widow and children" untouched! "There have been days," says widow Gow, "when we have had no food in the house." She should make another application to Judge Brynn Roberts for payment out for a specific purpose. He cannot be wholly without bowels of compassion, or brains of common-sense.

An Unjust Fine.

For opening a picture palace on Sunday without a permit from the London County Council, Alfred Grace was recently fined £15 and costs by the West London Magistrate. Part of the proceeds of the Sunday entertainments had been handed over to the Balaclava Heroes' Fund, and the Secretary declared himself quite satisfied with the proportion of the takings which he had received. In extenuation of his offence, Grace pleaded that permission to open the premises on Sundays had been granted to a former lessee, and he concluded that the licence continued valid. In view of these facts the Bench appear to have taken an altogether too serious view of what was little more than a technical offence. Grace was doubtless prejudiced by the fact that there were other and more serious charges against him, but seeing he was to be separately punished for these, the fine of £15 for Sunday opening was excessive and unjust.

A Monstrous Suggestion.

Mr. Coulson Kernahan suggests that every child should be compelled to attend Sunday school, and he would apparently enforce attendance with the utmost rigour of the law. This eccentric gentleman was evidently born a few centuries too late. Such an intolerable proposal belongs not to the twentieth century, but to the period when the fires of Smithfield were in full blaze and the thumbscrew and rack held an honoured place in the Christian armoury. Happily, we have got beyond the age of "compulsion" in matters of religious faith, and, saving Mr. Kernahan's saintly presence, we have not the slightest intention of going back. The proposal throws a lurid light upon the working of the Nonconformist mind. Puritanism and tyranny go ever hand-in-hand.

Henry Warren on Party.

"Controversy raged furiously around Peel's Act (*i.e.*, Bank Act of 1844) and, needless to say, it became the bone of Party contention. Whenever a subject reaches that stage in this country, its merits are forced into the background. Sides are taken, critics and politicians range themselves upon either the one or the other, and the subject, consequently, speedily gets all the truth lashed out of it. The number of people who really understand the question thoroughly is infinitesimal; and they, as a rule, by a strange irony of fate, do not dabble in politics."—From "The Story of the Bank of England."

Starts this week—Our Second Great Cricket Contest. See page. 715

Pray Be Seated!

A Russian engineer has devised an apparatus which, if universally adopted, will add materially to the decorum of Parliamentary debate. His ingenious machine makes it possible for the doorkeeper to press a button and thereby prevent any member from rising from his seat. We would gladly furnish a list of M.P.s for the purpose of an experiment. The notion is full of possibilities, but there are obvious dangers. Suppose the Suffragettes "collared" the switch?

Over Zeal.

Many readers ask our opinion of the recent Anti-Vivisection case. We think it was a clever, but very expensive, advertisement for a humanitarian cause due to the folly of exaggeration. Much better work could be done by insisting on the strict enforcement of the Vivisection Act.

The Bishop of Southwell.

Great dissatisfaction exists with the Bishop of Southwell, in consequence of his lordship's systematic disregard of the claims of his own clergy as livings fall vacant. Are there no competent and deserving curates in the diocese?

The Week's Chestnut.

MOTHER OF TWO (*hearing footsteps outside door*): "Is that you, darling?"

SAD VOICE (*from elder child*): "No, mother, it's only me."

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

HOLIDAYS WANTED.

Though Winston's suggestion
Rejected has been,
And Germany grins
"Do you see any green?"
The "holiday" scheme
Might be usefully tried
In other directions
The navies beside.

For instance, twelve months
Of unbroken respite
From the ragtime that worries us
Night after night,
And twelve months' suspension
Of militant deeds—
THAT *is the holiday*
Everyone needs.

Twelve months' cessation
Of Parliament, too,
Much good to our harassed
Old country would do;
A year free from "party"
And other sad creeds—
THAT *is the holiday*
Everyone needs.

Twelve months untroubled
By lock-outs and strikes,
Just a year's freedom
From motors and bikes;
Twelve months' release
From the taxi-cab call—
THAT *is the holiday*
Needed by all.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["Taking the Biscuit" has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.]

For advertising in the "Belfast Evening Telegraph": "*Wanted* VOCALIST *and Pianist* (*one who can* SING *preferred*) *for pleasure steamer during summer,*"

THE ADVERTISER (Box G77a, *Evening Telegraph*)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For informing its readers that: "*It is* AS FAR FROM DOVER TO COLOGNE AS FROM COLOGNE TO DOVER,"

THE OBSERVER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing in the "Wakefield Advertiser and Gazette": "*For sale,* UNWASHED LADIES' *stockings,*"

THE ADVERTISER (6, Greaves Yard, Denby Dale Road, Wakefield),
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the proceedings at a recent trial for cruelty to children, that: "*The* LOCAL INSPECTOR (*of the N.S.P.C.C.*) *visited the residence of the accused in a* FILTHY CONDITION,"

THE BURTON EVENING GAZETTE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, according to the Parliamentary Representative of the "Daily Mail," that in many places "WELL OVER 100 PER CENT. *of the registered medical practitioners were on the panels,*

MR. C. F. G. MASTERMAN, M.P.,
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in the "Carnmarth Deanery Magazine": "*I hope to get away for a short holiday, including* TWO SUNDAYS IN WHITSUN WEEK,"

THE REV. CANON YOUNG, M.A. (Vicar of Penwerris, Falmouth),
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in a recent article that: "*In the centre of Paris, without any warning save a sinister cracking, a house* LITERALLY CRUMBLED INTO DUST. . . . *I have visited the scene of the accident. . . . The house seemed to have been* SPLIT IN HALF *as with a knife,*"

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT OF *THE SUNDAY CHRONICLE*
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting a police sergeant as stating at a recent enquiry that: "*The right* BARREL *of the gun was empty, and* THE OTHER CONTAINED A LIVE PARTRIDGE,"

THE EVENING HERALD (Dublin)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing an article headed: "*Early Summer Suits.* ALL SHADES OF WHITE *are much worn,*"

THE YORKSHIRE TELEGRAPH & STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For placing under the heading of "LIVESTOCK" *the following advertisement:* "*For sale, Hornless Cabinet* GRAMOPHONE; *cost £9,*"

THE SUSSEX COUNTY HERALD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

*We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be marked "*BISCUIT," *and addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

£50 Cricket Prize for Ladies. A "Mauve" Coupon wanted. See page 715.

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AH SIN'S LITTLE GAME.

There is, however, a sinister significance in this so-called religious awakening. China has great natural resources which have been neglected for ages. She is awakening in a commercial sense and is becoming aware of her own vast wealth. She has rid herself of the incubus of the Manchu dynasty and has established her first republic. China's 400 millions of population want the country for themselves and, in time, will abolish all foreign spheres of influence. At present, however, the cards must be kept up Ah Sin's sleeve—until he deems it expedient to take the trick. The Yellow Peril is still with us, and the Chinese conquest is going on all the time; but it is a peaceful conquest—a conquest by settlement. In Northern Australia, in California, and even in parts of England, they are quietly invading and inter-marrying with white women. The Chinaman will scratch a living where a white man would starve, and he is gradually, but surely, strengthening his position in the Occident.

The young Republic is ambitious, and centuries of ancestor-worship have made the nation intensely patriotic, but they will do nothing dramatic to achieve their ends—at present. The Chinese can wait. They have the gift of patience. Like a glacier, imperceptibly, yet surely, moving towards the engulfment of the villages in the valley, so the vast Asiatic horde is strongly but surely planning the engulfment and absorption of the Caucasian world. It may not be in our time, but come it will inevitably.

No one who knows China would dream for one moment of a gigantic Mongolian army marching overland into Europe. Such an expedition would be impossible. The physical nature of the country and the commissariat difficulties are insurmountable, and before the invaders approached within striking distance of the enemy, the mountain-passes could be impregnably held by a comparatively small force.

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The fine was paid and the young man went home. His parents promptly called in a private medical practitioner, who was requested to write a report upon the patient's condition. We have a copy of this document in our possession. It is dated November 9th, and was thus written on the day following the lad's arrest:—

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A GAME OF GRAB.

CUNNING CADGER CHEATS CONFIDING CLIENT.

Among the Universal Providers is the Provident Clothing and Supply Company, Limited, of Bradford, an enterprising firm. Their agents swarm the West Riding, "telling the tale" with the best. They will not merely furnish you from head to heel with sumptuous habiliments at prices which are purely nominal, but, for a song, you may have a bit of the Company thrown in. You may blossom into a shareholder on the easy payment plan.

A correspondent recently agreed to take up two shares on this seductive system. The Provident agent lived next door, and the thing was arranged in a trice. The purchase money was to be paid in weekly instalments of five shillings. After a few payments, our correspondent, who was then living at Barnsley, decided to move to Morecambe. As soon as the agent learned this, he expressed a desire to take over his client's house, and to purchase his linoleum and carpets. Twenty-five shillings was agreed upon, but the agent, unfortunately, was short of "the ready." Negotiations were broken off, but at the last moment the Provident man hit upon a happy expedient. He offered to enter five weekly payments on our correspondent's share card in settlement of the carpet deal. His offer was accepted and the entries were duly made and initialled.

Our correspondent has since confessed to some misgiving as to the propriety of the arrangement, but he naturally believed himself to be protected by the agent's initials on his card. Shortly afterwards, the agent quitted the employ of the Provident Company without paying in the twenty-five shillings. The firm now disavow all responsibility for his act and refuse to recognise the receipt.

The attitude of the Company is a most extraordinary one, and we question its legality. The agent's initials on the share card are ample evidence of payment, and in giving receipts for instalments paid, he was obviously acting within the scope of his authority. The Company have no right to visit an innocent client with the penalty of their agent's wrong-doing. Their remedy is against their defaulting employé. Rather than take the trouble to track the absconding agent, they are meanly endeavouring to saddle our correspondent with a second payment, which he is utterly unable to afford. We urge him to resist the claim, and to rely upon the duly authenticated receipt of the Company's accredited representative.

A firm which employs dishonest agents must abide by the consequences, and pay the penalty of their lack of discrimination. The attempt to visit the sins of the agent upon innocent customers is as flagrantly illegal as it is monstrously unjust.

MHOW-OW!

PINCHING THE PRIVATE'S PROFICIENCY PAY.

Under the above heading, in our last issue we dealt with a threat issued by the Commanding Officer of the 1st. Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, now at Mhow, to certain men in his regiment who refused to be inoculated. As will be seen from the following regimental order, Colonel Sapte has now carried his threat into effect:—

> The undermentioned men, who have persistently refused to be inoculated against enteric fever, and in consequence are not considered eligible for active service, are relegated to Class II., Service Pay, under paragraph 686, King's Regulations, from this date:—

					Rate of Service Pay
No.	1096	Pte.	P. Shoosmith,	"E" Coy.	4d.
„	1572	„	F. Candler,	"F" „	4d.
„	1090	„	R. Mayle,	„ „	5d.
„	1116	„	G. Myatt,	„ „	4d.
„	1442	„	W. Potter,	„ „	4d.
„	812	„	A. Plane,	„ „	5d.

We respectfully draw the attention of the Commander of the Forces in India to this incident, and suggest to him that the order for inoculation issued by Colonel Sapte was either lawful or unlawful. If the former, the Colonel should be tried by Court Martial for failing to enforce discipline. If the latter, he should be reprimanded for issuing an unlawful order.

KIDNAPPING.

THE *MCUNT EDGCUMBE* TRAINING SHIP AGAIN.

We have once more to call the attention of the Education Authorities to the manner in which the Committee of the Training Ship *Mount Edgcumbe* deal with children entrusted to their care. About twelve months ago a Plymouth lad became unmanageable, was brought before the Juvenile Court, and was sent to this industrial training ship until he attained the age of 16. When he reached his 16th birthday his parents naturally expected him home, but on making application thay were told that he had been placed in the service of a fishing-smack owner, and that he had gone to sea for choice. The parents naturally demanded the address of the employer, and then wrote to him. The answer is illuminating:—

> I was surprised to get your letter. I have sent it on to the Superintendent of the *Mount Edgcumbe*. Of course I had to arrange with him. *I did not even know the boy had parents.* The only thing I can do is to well clothe these lads, arrange for them to have plenty of food, and *a comfortable lodge when they come home.* I have a boy now doing well. His home is in London. He was to have gone home for Xmas—but now he is going at Easter. He promised to write me when the new boy had been there a fortnight. Your son has been one trip. They did not go out again before Monday eve. I am enclosing a letter I received from the Skipper's wife for you to see. You will have the satisfaction of knowing he is comfortable, and anything further arrange with the Captain. I shall no doubt hear from him in a day or two.

We know very well what the *Mount Edgcumbe* authorities have behind their minds—it is a section of the Children Act, which renders a child subject to supervision until the age of 18. That, however, won't do. They have no right whatever to exceed the Magistrate's order. The parents are very much worried about their son, and want him home.

Life on a fishing smack, even in fine weather, is terribly hard, but in bad weather it is simply "hell."

Let the smack-owners get men to do their work and pay them well for it. To get boys from Industrial Ships and pay them 2s. a week is surely a revival of slavery.

A POLICEMAN AND A—WORM.

CONSTABLES HELPLESS AGAINST OFFICIAL TYRANNY.

It is peculiar that the police should be denied the common justice that is given to the meanest scoundrel they may arrest. We have recently given many striking examples of unfair treatment of members of the force by certain Standing Committees, and were not surprised to read of constables running amok with firearms, the allegation being that the tyranny of their superiors had driven them mad.

In October last a police constable named Edwards was on escort duty at Newport, Isle of Wight, from 10.30 a.m. till 1 p.m. During the whole of this time, it is stated, he was under the immediate supervision of an inspector and two sergeants. Upon coming off duty he was reported for being drunk. Edwards was never charged, but he was summarily dismissed without having had the faintest chance of defending himself. He had nineteen years' good service to his credit. He loses his right to a pension in a few years' time, and also all the moneys he has paid into the Police Superannuation Fund.

Edwards has the elementary right of a citizen to be confronted with whatever evidence there may be against him, in order that he may refute it if he can. When we find a policeman erring in a matter of duty we speak out; when we find a constable is not getting fair play we are, therefore, bound to do what we can to assist him.

"EXPERT RENT COLLECTING."

"Sympathetic Reader" has sent us £5 for the victim of the "scientific" methods of Neale, the Brighton rent-collector; while "The Camerons" have also sent 5s. for the same purpose. These amounts we have had much pleasure in forwarding to the deserving objects.

Don't forget to take Home "Mary Bull." A £50 Prize for the Ladies is Waiting.

A MEAN SWINDLE.

WEALTHY WOMAN'S TRUMPERY TRICK.

A Somerset lady who employs a number of servants was recently prosecuted for non-compliance with the requirements of the Insurance Act. She had failed to stamp her employés' cards and was ordered to pay up all contributions as from the day on which the Act came into operation. By a somewhat mean trick, she has now contrived to throw more than half the penalty of her own default on to the shoulders of her servants. She has actually deducted from their slender wages at one swoop the whole amount of contributions which they would have paid weekly if she had done her duty from the beginning.

One of her under gardeners sends us particulars of his own case. No less a sum than eight shillings and eightpence was deducted from his wages in a single week, this being the amount necessary to wipe out the arrears of his contributions since the commencement of the Act. Other employés have been treated with even greater hardship. One unfortunate lad, earning six shillings and sixpence a week, had eight shillings and eightpence to pay towards the extinction of arrears, so that at the end of a week's hard work he was actually out of pocket to the tune of two shillings and twopence.

In case other readers may have been similarly swindled, we may at once point out that all such deductions are flagrantly illegal. No employer is entitled to deduct more than fourpence from his employé's wages in any one week. An employer who allows his servant's contributions to get into arrears has only himself to thank, and he cannot legally recover such arrears by deductions from wages. Moreover, a worker who has been defrauded in this way may take summary proceedings for the recovery of his money. He need not go to the County Court, but should make application to the magistrates. Improper deductions under the Insurance Act are regarded as arrears of wages and may be summarily recovered in any police-court. Relief will be granted as a matter of course, and the employer will be ordered to pay the costs of the application.

Unfortunately, only a small minority of aggrieved employés are sufficiently independent to venture upon legal proceedings. One of our principal objections to the Insurance Act in its present form is the readiness with which it lends itself to abuse by mean-spirited and ungenerous employers.

HOW *NOT* TO DO IT.

THE "OLD MAN OF THE SEA" AGAIN.

The Board of Trade continues its remarkable series of lessons in the art of "How *not* to do it." Awakened at length by the *Titanic* disaster to the fact that the spring is the dangerous time of the year for Atlantic traffic, it lately announced with a great flourish of trumpets that in conjunction with the Liverpool Shipowners' Association —who paid half the cost—it had fitted out an observation vessel to locate and give warning of the position of ice floes and bergs in the track of steamers. An old whaler, the *Scotia* was purchased, all the resources of the Meterological Department were requisitioned, and two months ago the *Scotia* departed on her errand. She has now, however, returned to St. John's, to report absolute failure. It seems to have struck none of the bureaucrats that speed was absolutely essential for the performance of the hazardous work; the *Scotia's* engines were so underpowered that she could not even attempt to range through the sections of the ocean where field ice was present, in order to warn vessels or to help them. The installation of wireless telegraphy was not sufficient to enable her to enter into communication with the liners whose guardian she was supposed to be. Her recording instruments could not record owing to her instability—whilst she could not carry enough coal for a prolonged cruise!

It is strange that the activities of the Suffragettes are not directed towards the Board of Trade, which is at present strangling the commerce of the country.

CONSCIENCELESS COMPENSATION.

WILY WANGLERS AND WOUNDED WORKMEN.

Our recent paragraphs upon the subject of Workmen's Compensation have brought us a shoal of correspondence.

A Bristol correspondent informs us that his sister recently met with an accident while in the employ of a local company. She put in a modest claim for compensation which, after considerable delay, was grudgingly paid. Two months afterwards the girl was summarily dismissed, in circumstances which raise a grave suspicion that the firm had merely awaited the first opportunity of taking a mean revenge upon her for her very proper insistence upon her legal rights. This impression is strengthened by the fact that one of the girl's brothers was singled out for dismissal at the same time, while another brother was cashiered a week later, the foreman significantly remarking that he "could guess why it was."

From the additional information which we now have in our possession, we see no reason to abate a word of our charges against certain Insurance Companies, who through their agents frequently take the meanest advantage of injured persons by offering them paltry sums in full compensation for serious injuries. Insured workmen are frequently ignorant of their legal rights, and thus fall an easy prey to the wiles of fraudulent agents.

In the course of a recent case at the Westminster Police Court, it was stated that a man, who had been so severely injured that he had undergone nearly three months' hospital treatment, and had completely lost the sight of one eye, had been induced by an Insurance agent to accept a sum of £42 in full discharge of his claim to compensation. The poor fellow had acted without legal aid, and probably thought he had done pretty well, seeing that the agent's first offer amounted to £4 10s.

A similar case has recently come under our own notice. One of our readers was so severely injured in the course of his employment that he was compelled to remain in hospital for thirteen weeks, and can now only walk with the aid of crutches. Shortly after the accident, an Insurance agent offered him £25 in full satisfaction of his claim, and the official had the effrontery to state that as our correspondent was under 21 years of age at the time of the accident, he could not raise a dispute as to the amount of compensation.

It is by such mean shifts as this that workmen are trapped into so called "agreements," which are afterwards used as a bar to further proceedings in respect of their injuries. Injured persons will be well advised to eschew all such arrangements, and to allow their claims to go to the County Court for arbitration in the manner prescribed by the Act

YE AIRSHIPS OF ENGLAND.

Ye airships of old England,
That guard our native land,
You do not battle with the breeze,
But in your sheds you stand;
There may be two or three of you,
For no one seems to know,
But not oft D'ye go aloft,
But not oft D'ye go aloft,—
For you stay quite safe below-o-o-o!
All locked up down below-o-o-o!
And you don't go taking chances when
The stormy winds do blow.

Britannia has no airships
All ready for the air;
If others have a fleet of them,
Why should Britannia care?
She's tinkering with one or two
That can't be made to go,
Hopping round On the ground,
Bumping round On the ground—
While aloft there flies the foe-o-o-o-!
All the airships of the foe-o-o-o!
And she trusts to luck to muddle through
If the winds of war should blow.

RICARDO.

"Bullets" THE STRAIGHT Competition with most Prizes.

PILLS AND PIFFLE.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY'S UNFRIENDLY ACT.

There is in the borough of Luton a Friendly Societies' Medical Institute, whose emblem consists of two hands clasped firm in brotherly love. It is a pretty device, but if all we hear is true, we fear it is more picturesque than appropriate. A correspondent furnishes us with a recent instance of the dealings of the Institute in which the element of "friendliness" was conspicuous by its absence.

Rule 16 reads;—Every member of this Institute who is clear upon the books shall be eligible to receive medicine," and there is no indication elsewhere that this regulation is of other than universal application.

Our correspondent's wife has for many years been a subscriber to the Institute. In March last she was overtaken with illness and was attended by the Medical Officer of the Society. Instead of prescribing for her in the usual way, the doctor recommended her to try a certain standard brand of pills, and further suggested that they should be purchased at a well-known firm of chemists in the town.

Having regard to the rule quoted above, our correspondent naturally felt that he was being deprived of one of the main advantages for which he had so long subscribed. He accordingly addressed a perfectly polite letter to the Secretary, calling attention to Rule 16.

His first letter evoked no response. He wrote again, and in reply received a curt and contemptuous note from the Secretary, who snappishly informed him that "the specialities asked for" could not be supplied at the cost of the Institute. The writer was guilty of a deliberate distortion of facts in suggesting that the pills were "asked for" by our correspondent. They were prescribed by the Medical Officer of the Institute and as such were a "medicine" within the meaning of Rule 16.

Aggrieved by the effrontery of a paid official, our correspondent wrote to the Committee of the Society and was honoured by a personal reply from the President, who said:—

> The Committee was of opinion that the treatment recommended by Dr. Wynne (the Institute doctor) did not come within the ordinary treatment provided by the registered rules. The speciality as ordered is one which in ordinary medical practice would be considered an extra.

What was this priceless prophylactic for which an ordinary practitioner would be obliged to charge a special fee? The leading chemists of Luton are to-day supplying the pills at eighteenpence for a bottle of thirty, and elsewhere in the town they can be obtained in abundance at three shillings a gross.

Having regard to recent revelations as to the ingredients of patent medicines, it may be safely assumed that had he chosen to do so, Dr, Wynne could easily have "put up" twice the number for as many pence.

We shall keep an eye on the Luton Medical Institute.

HARD LINES.

A HINT TO THE POWERS THAT BE.

A Shropshire reader recently entered an action for debt at the Wolverhampton County Court. No notice reaching him for some time, he naturally concluded that the hearing had been deferred. At last, tired of waiting, he wrote to the Court Office, requesting some explanation of the delay, and was greatly surprised and annoyed to learn that his case had been called on and struck out for want of prosecution, although he had received no intimation of the date on which it would be heard.

Our correspondent wrote again, demanding an explanation of this extraordinary procedure, and in reply he was assured that due notice of the hearing had been posted to him. He is, therefore, left to infer that the missive was lost in the post. This explanation is, of course, sufficient to acquit the officials of all blame in the matter, but it is by no means satisfactory to the plaintiff, who is now called upon to enter his plaint again and pay a second fee of five shillings. He is a poor man and can ill afford such expensive formalities. We unreservedly accept the statement of the Court Officials that they duly posted the plaint note, but would it be too much to ask that such important missives should be registered?

A TYRANT IN BLUE.

STRAIGHT TALK TO BLACKPOOL'S CHIEF CONSTABLE.

How much longer will the citizens of Blackpool tolerate the tyrannies of their Chief of Police? It is surely high time that there was some sort of protest against his persecution of the poor. A woman who has been a ratepayer in the town for upwards of two generations, and who for many years past has earned an honest, it precarious, living by hawking sweetmeats in the streets, is the latest victim of the savagery of this highly paid official. Nothing whatever is known against her; she bears an excellent character, and has never been in trouble of any sort. Yet, for the technical offence of "obstruction" she has been three times haled before the Magistrates, and although poor to the verge of destitution, has been mulcted in fines amounting in all to nearly four pounds. At a blow the unhappy woman has been deprived of her means of subsistence, and crushed with a cruel penalty which is out of all proportion to the triviality of her offence.

Her sense of wrong and injustice is exacerbated by the knowledge that the Blackpool Corporation welcomes hawkers who are able to pay handsomely for their stands. Well-to-do traders from other towns swarm to the sea front in the season, while she, a forty-years' ratepayer, is harassed and driven by the police like any common felon.

Felons indeed are fortunate in Blackpool. The Chief Constable is for too busy stamping out the heinous crime of "obstruction" to trouble himself with such trifles as wholesale thievery. Blackpool in the season is infested with pickpockets, and the police have shewn themselves hopelessly incompetent to grapple with the evil.

The crushing of defenceless street traders is a sport more to his liking. Moreover, it is easy of accomplishment, and his lust for convictions is readily gratified. The frustration of organised crime is a more difficult task.

FLEEING FROM THE LASH.

POLICE PROTECTION, OR PROTECTION FROM THE POLICE?

A well-intentioned correspondent questions the accuracy of a story to which we recently gave publicity. Our readers may remember that, under the heading "Divorce and White Slavery," we referred to the unhappy case of a man who had unwittingly married a woman of immoral character, and who was so terrified by the passing of the White Slave Act that he fled to Canada rather than run the risk of a criminal prosecution. Our correspondent suggests that we have been misled, and furnishes us with a lucid statement of the law upon the subject, which we believe to be substantially correct. While thanking our mentor for his courteous letter, we respectfully suggest to him that he has missed our point. The unhappy husband probably knew the law—but in all likelihood he knew something of police methods, and more than a little of the ways of magistrates—he was a regular reader of John Bull. He knew—what he knew—and preferred not to take risks.

Ironically enough, our correspondent himself unwittingly supplies us with good reasons for believing that the runaway was wise. He does not know the man, neither does he know the source of our information, but here is his comment upon the whole thing: "Evil doers invent all manner of stories as an excuse for their conduct"! We will not stay to moralise upon the uncharity of this view, but supposing a magistrate had said that! This is the view of an experienced man of the world! In point of fact, we believe it to be utterly wrong in this particular case. But is it certain that a magistrate would have been more charitable? Was there no risk?

The man, we are told, might have obtained "police protection" from his drunken and dissolute wife. True, but what of the publicity, exposure, and shame? Why should an innocent man be compelled to drag his good name through the mire and squalour of a police court? What has he done to deserve the sneers and snubs of officious policemen, or the impertinent catechism of an arrogant Bench? Divorce is the only appropriate remedy for the wrongs we have named. To withhold it from the poor is a denial of simple justice.

Another £1,000 for Cricket Forecasts. See page 517.

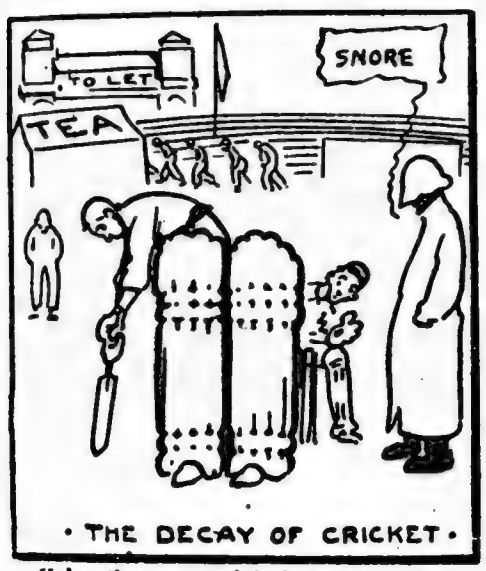
"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

To Scotland war-worn Roberts goes
To preach about the thing he knows:
To wit, Britannia's hopeless case
Unless conscription she will face.

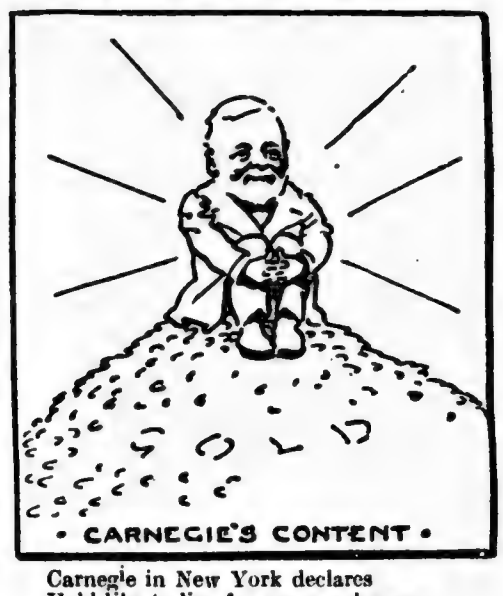
Meanwhile, Sir David Burnett tries
To show where other danger lies;
Calls on the country to prepare
For Armaggedon in the air.

The King goes down to Aldershot
To see what sort of troops he's got;
Reviews his warriors, khaki clad,
And wishes more were to be had.



Unless the county clubs invest
Their cricket with more interest
The public will the game ignore,
And stick to footer more and more.

Alfonso, debonair and gay,
To Paris does a visit pay;
Arrived, he not one moment wastes,
But promptly of her pleasures tastes.



Carnegie in New York declares
He'd like to live for years and years—
Says he's contented with his "lot"
With so much gold, who would be not?

AGENTS AND ADVERTISERS.

TRICKY TOUTS AND A SHEFFIELD SHUFFLE.

We have received an interesting letter from the Managing Director of the Sheffield Advertising Company, who is much aggrieved by our recent article in which we exposed the tricks and shifts of the less reputable agents of the firm. We see no reason to qualify our earlier statements.

It will be remembered that a tradesman received a call from two agents of the Company, and was, as he alleges, tricked into signing a form which was, in fact, an order for an advertisement on the curtain of a local music-hall. The shopkeeper was subsequently sued by the Company, and judgment was entered against him, although he had been solemnly assured by the Company's representatives that the summons would be withdrawn.

The Managing Director contents himself with a bare denial of the charge of trickery. In so doing he is doubtless perfectly honest according to his lights. We never suggested that the Company were pursuing a policy of deliberate fraud, neither do we suppose that they connive at the dishonest practices of their agents. The letter before us confirms our conviction that the Company's representatives have got seriously "out of hand," and that a drastic process of "weeding out" is urgently demanded in the interests of the trading public. Unfortunately, the facts to which we have already given publicity, do not stand alone. There is ample evidence that the Company numbers among its agents men for whom there is no place in any respectable concern.

With reference to the second suggestion contained in our article, our correspondent is equally unconvincing. He assures us that no steps have been taken to enforce the County Court judgment, and that the Company have not therefore profited by their agent's "blunder." We are by no means overwhelmed by this intelligence. It is the very least we should have expected from an honest firm. Knowing what we do, it is a little difficult to trace the motives of such forbearance. The Managing Director scoffs at the defence of infancy which the tradesman was entitled to set up, and he solemnly assures us that there was no trace of fraud in the transaction. Why then should the firm stay its hand? Why this pusillanimity in a righteous cause? For answer we must again refer to the Manager's letter. He naïvely informs us that "if they succeeded in getting judgment it was doubtful whether they would get any satisfaction." In other words, despite "expert" advertising, the poor man wasn't "worth powder and shot." Here, then, is the real reason for the Company's singular change of front. In view of the defendant's dismal poverty, they refrained from further proceedings, which must inevitably have been futile, and instructed their solicitor to drop the case. Such "magnanimity" leaves us cold.

We thank the Managing Director for his letter, but we adhere to our original position. We urge the Expert Advertising Company to take drastic measures for the prevention of fraud. The accredited representatives of the Company must be above suspicion.

"Continuous Merit" Prizes. A New "Bullets" Feature. See page 722.

WRITE TO "JOHN BULL" ABOUT IT.

SOME TYPICAL PROBLEMS WE ARE ASK TO SOLVE.

Every day about a thousand people ask our advice, hundreds of them unbosoming themselves of secrets too heavy to be borne alone. Among other refreshing testimony to the confidence which we have inspired in the breasts of our readers, we have requests by those on the lower rungs of the ladder for hints to aid their feet in the climb—such, for instance, as the appeal by a shop assistant for our guidance in the step he proposes taking of utilising his modest savings in starting in business on his own account. The responsibility which some of these "Bullites" seek to cast upon us is occasionally overwhelming, as in their blind faith they tell us that they will be implicitly guided in their life's career by what we say!

A husband in his distress writes to us regarding his wife, who is afflicted with tuberculosis of the lungs. After describing the progress of the disease, he asks what he should do. This is, unfortunately, beyond us—the only counsel we can give is that he should speak to the medical man attending the case, with a view to obtaining the admission of the poor woman into a sanatorium if the disease be not too far advanced.

Then comes to us a mother with a very peculiar trouble. She asks us to look at her eyes. We do so, but fail to see anything amiss. She explains that, through some malformation, the lashes grew inside the lids. After several operations in a hospital the lashes have been removed, but the result is that her eyes become inflamed. Some of her children, naturally but thoughtlessly, remark upon her appearance, which causes her annoyance. She asks whether we can recommend her to anyone who would cause the lashes to grow in their proper places. We are in a quandary, and can only express the opinion that—though it might be possible to transplant hair, as certain American doctors claim to have done—the process with the eyelids would be extremely expensive and uncertain. We assured her, however, that the abnormality is quite unnoticeable, and that her children, when they grow a little older, will respect their mother's antipathy to discussion of her peculiarity. Exit the poor woman, with evidently genuine expressions of relief and thanks!

The saddest cases are those of the mentally afflicted, who write long and incoherent letters, and pay aggressive visits when they find that their complaints have not caused a cessation of their troubles. Their allegation usually takes some such form as that detectives follow them about all day and hide under their beds at night, and "suggest" all kinds of ideas to them by some process of mental telephony. With a remarkable unanimity, the poor sufferers describe this as "brain talk." No newspaper office is, unfortunately, entirely free of such unwelcome callers, but we certainly have more than our share.

More Windfalls.—Last week we acknowledged the receipt of 12s. from the Chief Steward of s.s. *Teucer*. At sea, as on land, tonsural operations are necessary, and as the *Teucer* carries no barber, our friend performs upon the engineers. Acting upon the adage that the labourer is worthy of his hire, he makes a small charge, but—in order, possibly, that he may not be accused of "blacklegging"—he devotes the money to charity. He selects our "Human Document" fund, as he rightly believes that everything given reaches the object, without deduction of any kind. We have also received five shillings from the under-manager of a colliery, who, after taking a lady and her daughter round the mine the other day, was asked to accept something for his trouble. He always made a practice of not receiving anything, but as the lady was very persistent, he agreed to take her gift of 10s., on condition that she would allow him to devote it to charity. Our reader gave 5s. to local charities, sending the remainder to our fund.

On another page is described a remarkable enterprise undertaken, through the medium of *T.P.'s Weekly*, by the Pelman School of Memory Training. This bold and novel attempt at developing the mental powers of the myriad of followers of commerce owes its origin partly to the weighty statements which recently fell from the lips of the Lord Mayor of London, Mr. Birch Crisp, Mr. A. W. Gamage, and other famous business authorities. The Pelman system has received the highest recognition, having been recently supplied to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales—while by its aid nearly a quarter of a million men and women have improved their position in life.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXLVI.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

A DISTRESSED WAITRESS AND HER MOTHER.

Our appeal this week is on behalf of a devoted daughter and a loving mother. The old lady is a widow, 69 years of age, and her daughter 32. Ever since she lost her husband many years ago, the old lady has been supported entirely by her daughter, who is a waitress. Things went on smoothly enough while the girl was in health and strength, for their wants were few; but for some considerable time the daughter has been unable to attend her business owing to illness. With nothing to fall back upon, things soon began to look serious. After the insurance money ceased, odds and ends had to be pawned, and eventually the employer kindly gave food and money. Our investigator states that the girl is now well on the way to recovery, but is urgently in need of a few weeks' change of air. Her employer has promised to find her a place on her return. In the circumstances, perhaps, one of our readers could supply a permit for a convalescent home. Any monetary help will be at once forwarded to the girl. The old lady says she does not want to go to the Workhouse. We don't think she will. In this age of filial ingratitude, it is refreshing to come across a case where a daughter has—as in this instance—even renounced marriage in order to lighten the burden of her mother's reclining years.

We have received the following, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CCXL.—H. D., 2s.

CCXLI.—"Bonifacio," 4s. 2d.

CCXLII.—"Bonifacio," 4s. 2d.

CCXLIII.—"Bonifacio," 4s. 2d.; "Elise," 1s.

CCXLIV.—Wm. C. H., 2s. 6d.; "Another Who Has Been On the Rocks," 2s.; W. N., 1s.; J. H. N., 2s. 9d.; B. G., 5. "Fag," 5s.; C. G. S., 2s.; "Good Luck," 2s.; J. F. J., 3d.; "Rex," 1s.; S. P., 1s.; M. A. D., 2s. 6d.; E. W. W., 1s.; "Edina," 10s.; "Don," 6d.; "Morgan," 5s.; "Careless One," 6d.; E. M. H., 3d.; R. S., 1d.; A. E. L., 5s.; "A Sympathiser," 6d.; A. J. R., 2s.; Mrs. L. B., 6d.; M. T., 3d.; "Trier," 1d.; Mrs. K. W., 4d.; D.O.U.G.H.T.Y., 2s. 6d.; "Teign," 1s.; A. E. L., E. S., and "Anonymous," Parcels of Clothing.

CCXLV.—"Ivy Mary," 5s.; "Edina," 10s.; G. W., 6d. F. D., 6d.; "Ladder," 6d.

COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work.

London.—Mr. T. R. Morton, "Duke of Edinburgh," Crichton Street, Wandsworth Road, 2s. 7d.; Mr. E. T. Pimm, "The Cock," Walham Green, 2s. 7d.; Mr. A. Hoop, "Denbigh Arms," Denbigh Place, S.W., 3s.; Mr. Albin Pink, "Bell," 136, High Street, Shoreditch, 1s. 10d.; Mr. V. Wrigglesworth, "Aberfeldy Tavern," Poplar, 4s. 1d.; Mr. E. H. Gilbert, "George Canning Hotel," Effra Road, Brixton, 1s. 8d.; Mr. E. E. Gilbert, 176, Upper Richmond Road, Putney, 1s. 4d.; Mrs. Egan, "Black Lion," 272, High Road, Kilburn, 3s. 1½d.; Mr. C. McCarthy, Messrs. Garcia, Jacobs and Co., Langley Street, Covent Garden, 13s. 4d.; Mr. A. W. Hemming, "Crown and Appletree," 37, Berwick Street, 1s. 8d.; Mr. A. W. Ware, Messrs. Armstrong and Co., 24, Goldhawk, Road, Shepherd's Bush, 2s. 9½.; Messrs. Cohen and Co., 446, Strand, 1s. 3d.; Madame Elizabeth, 911, Fulham Road, 1s. 6d.; Mr. A. C. Heath, 16, Seagrove Road, Fulham, 1s.; Mr. P. Ellis, "Crown and Sceptre," Woolmore Street, Poplar, 1s. 5d.; Mr. A. J. Blowes, "The Colville," King's Road, Chelsea, 1s. 3½d.; Mr. H. Lee, "Copenhagen," Salmon Lane, Limehouse, 2s. 4d.

Bedford.—Mrs. Dawkes, 1, Bushmead Avenue, 2s.

Birmingham.—Mr. J. Lowe, "Baltic Inn," Hope Street, 1s. 1d.

Glasgow.—Mr. W. Turner, 83, Garscube Road, 2s. 8d.; Mr. J. Phoenix, 534, Argyle Street, 1s. 4½d.

Leicester.—Mr. G. Green, "Hotel Balmoral," Melton Road, 1s.

Leeds.—Mr. G. Sedgwick, "Mason's Arms," near Woodham Lane, 1s. 3½d.

Liverpool.—Mr. F. Delderfield, "Press Guards Hotel," 13, Soho Street, 2s.; Mr. W. McTaggart, "Park Palace Hotel," Mill Street, 2s.; Mr. G. Mackenzie, "Channel Fleet Hotel," 275, Grafton Street, 3s.

Wolverhampton.—Mr. S. R. Whitehouse, "Royal Oak," Pountney Street, 1s. 5½d.

Total: £3 4s. 7½d., of which we have allocated 10s. to CCXXXVIII., 14s. 7½d. to CCXLI., and £2 to CCXLV.

Pastime and Profit is provided by "Bullets." Prizes value over £1,895 Weekly.

SENSATIONAL OFFER BY "T.P.'s WEEKLY"!

FAMOUS JOURNAL ENABLES READERS TO TRAIN THEIR MINDS FOR GREATER SUCCESS IN LIFE.

Gift of 40 % of Fees to all taking Pelman Course of Mind and Memory Training as already supplied to over 200,000 of the World's most progressive Men and Women.

Sensational is the offer made to-day by *T.P.'s. Weekly* to everyone who wishes to train his or her mind for greater success in life.

For Mr. T. P. O'Connor's famous journal has just made arrangements whereby readers anxious to increase their efficiency and income-earning powers shall be supplied with the very same scientific Course of Mind and Memory Training that has already enabled over 200,000 of the world's brainiest and busiest men and women to improve their positions and to earn more money.

This Course is the Pelman Course—a name held in the highest admiration and appreciation by everyone who has had the opportunity of securing the brain-benefits bestowed by this wonderful system.

"JOHN BULL'S" ADVICE TO READERS.

Of the merits of this Course JOHN BULL has already written the following words:—

> We have carefully investigated the genuineness of the Pelman System, and have no hesitation in advising our readers who desire to strengthen their memories to undergo the Course. . . . The many testimonials from clergymen, doctors, schoolmasters, and commercial men, show in what a wide and enlightened field the System has been appreciated.

If you see it in JOHN BULL, it is so!

The correctness of JOHN BULL's praise of the Pelman System is now fortified by the enterprise of *T.P.'s Weekly* in securing the advantages of this Course for readers at such greatly reduced terms.

SPECIAL ARTICLE BY MR. T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P.

Everyone should read the article of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., in the Prospectus of Particulars, forwarded free to every reader who applies for it to-day.

"Convinced," says Mr. T. P. O'Connor, "by the reading of the books"—i.e., the books of the Pelman System forwarded to everyone who takes the Course—"and by reading scores of letters of grateful and sometimes even enthusiastic thanks from the students of this method, I agreed to put before my readers a special opportunity of becoming acquainted with the Pelman Method.

The opportunity is special, not merely in its terms, but in other ways as well.

We put this scheme before our readers in the confident belief that we are giving them a splendid opportunity of cultivating those gifts of their minds which are most susceptible of improvement by scientific methods. May the result be that we shall have contributed towards making many thousands of young men and young women better equipped, more efficient, and more qualified for success in the battle of life on which they have all to enter."

These are the words of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., one of the most distinguished figures in both the Literary and the Political worlds to-day.

You will read the article in full in the Prospectus and Particulars of "T.P.'s." great offer, which is forwarded gratis and post free on receipt of the coupon printed below.

You will read there also most strikingly interesting letters from men and women who have taken this Course showing how greatly they have benefited—as you can benefit—from the mind and memory training they have thus secured.

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Competition is more intense nowadays than it has ever been in the world's history.

To win through successfully you must train your mind.

If you seek to fight competition with an untrained mind you are like a man who seeks to get from London to Edinburgh on foot, when his competitors are travelling by express train.

Mind-training is the express train that takes you to the destination you desire; and the Pelman Course is the course that gives you that scientific mental training that will double and even treble your efficiency and earning-power by developing in your mind those qualities of

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—Concentration	—Driving Power
—Ambition	—Forcefulness
—Idealism	—Self-Confidence
—Judgment	—Business Tact
—Decision	—Personal Magnetism
—Dominating Personality	—Never-forgetting Memory

possession of which will make you successful in whatever profession, business or occupation yours may be.

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PRISONERS AT THE BAR.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

By Herbert Vivian.

Edward John Poynter, you that are the prisoner at the bar, hold up your hand. I am not surprised that a jury should have found you guilty of conspiring with other vagabonds, mostly unknown, to obtain money by artful pretences.

But allowance shall be made for the weakness of your intelligence, due perhaps in part to the demoralisation of old age. The best witnesses in mitigation of your offence were undoubtedly the childish speeches with which you wearied your guests at the Academy Banquet. That used to be a great national, almost historical occasion, but has now degenerated into so abject a farce that I am amazed to find it attended by responsible statesmen and leaders of serious thought. However, they came at your behest and served to emphasise the decay of your intellect.

In justification of the indulgence with which I am about to treat you, I shall now proceed to cite a few of your most characteristic utterances. Passing over your fawning adulation of royal efforts in the direction of art—efforts to which you impudently attributed "great success"—I come to your toast of The Imperial Forces, an obviously irrelevant toast in a picture-gallery, but one which might afford fine opportunities for a patriotic orator. Now listen to your own words: "Without such bulwarks to the nation, foremost to stand against the conqueror's aim, all interests, public and private, would indeed languish, and among them the arts would be the first to suffer." Pray, what did you mean by "the conqueror"? Are you not aware that our country has not been conquered for 847 years? As no conqueror exists, or can or will ever exist, there is obviously no need to stand against his aim. In any case, it would be a poor form of resistance to stand against somebody's aim. And why should the arts be the first to suffer from a conquest? I suppose you really meant that, from your point of view, they would be the most important sufferers. But, judging by their expression in your gallery this year, it is difficult to believe that they would be seriously missed.

You observed that "to go through the list of those holding great names in science, music and the drama would take time," but you "could not omit the dignitaries and ministers of religion, the great authorities of the legal profession, notably those who, in their high position as judges, administered the law with a learning and integrity unrivalled in any land." This meant that you had not time to enumerate scientific, musical and theatrical guests, but that you must find time to enumerate clerical and legal ones. And then you enumerated neither!

You have, indeed, justified Counsel's plea that you are not responsible for your actions. Still, those actions have been so reprehensible that they cannot be passed over altogether. Stern measures must be taken to protect the public against further imposition in the name of Art. The pictures in your gallery this year all afford eloquent testimony to the fraud of the Royal Academy. If any one of them is to be regarded as an artistic expression, then the practice of art should be made a penal offence. I daresay that you were not personally responsible for the selection, but you are the figure-head of the conspiracy and must therefore bear the blame.

We are to remember that this is no hole-and-corner exhibition, relying upon its own merits for success. It is trumpeted forth by the whole Press as a national institution, it is endorsed by all the most distinguished leaders of modern thought, it attracts thousands of dupes who pay shillings for admission, in many cases pounds for the possession of worthless canvas. There would be no worse dishonesty if you conspired with editors and bishops and cabinet ministers to palm off glass beads as precious stones, or imaginary mines as the possessors of Marconi possibilities.

The sentence of the Court is, and the Court doth award, that your gallery be closed for ever, and that you be bound over in your own recognisances to induce all your colleagues to join with you in some useful work, such as the painting of railings, for the rest of your natural lives.

MAY MEETING MUSINGS.

THE ANNUAL "LUST FOR TALK."

By W. H. Adsett.

According to the impeccable *British Weekly* some of the Nonconformist bodies are developing a "lust for talk." This belated discovery of the dogmatic Scotsman who guides the destinies of this favourite organ of the "Nonconformist conscience" is distinctly amusing. Most of the shining lights of the dissenting churches—self-assertive Popes and Non-Catholic congregations—owe their positions to their glib mouthing of pulpit platitudes.

Many an ambitious provincial youth has been rescued from a life of counter drudgery by his copious flow of spiritual high falutin. "The call" has come to him; he renounces his apron and 30s. a week; soon he tickles the ears of the faithful with his "Niagara of talk."

During May, London is given up to the saintly saturnalia of these champions of small talk. The Strand is no longer the meeting place of the black-coated brigade and their numerous female following. Sainted ministers no longer rub shoulders with scented mummers. Exeter Hall, formerly the Mecca of May meetingists, caters for the body instead of the soul. Other centres now receive this sombre invasion. With a change of venue there has been no change of cant.

In the May-time the secretaries' fancy lightly turns to thoughts of new subscribers. It may be that the coffers of the Society for Promoting Cucumber Culture Amongst Kaffirs have become low. The May meeting affords a splendid chance for the wily secretary to get a substantial collection. A live lord, with philanthropic leanings, a pious baronet, and a tame Labour member always ready to speak on any conceivable subject, fill the bill. Moving tales of the moral effects of a cucumber dietary upon Kaffirs bring forth the needful donations from sympathetic spinsters. Sufficient money can be raised to secure for the next year the salaries of the secretary and his assistant. The true title for many of the organisations would be "Secretary Employment Societies." Official expenses form the principal item in the balance-sheets.

Meetings of some of the societies are a convenient excuse for parsons and their lay friends to have a glorious time in town at the society's expense. It would not be judicious for the committee to inquire where the Rev. Diggleton Dumps and his churchwarden spent their time after the meetings.

Some time ago a bucolic vicar on returning home after his May meetings accidentally let fall on the breakfast table portions of two stall tickets for the Empire. All attempts to explain to the Vicaress that the gathering referred to a great question of Empire proved futile. The Vicaress is in future to accompany the Vicar on his May metropolitan jaunts.

JOHN BULL: "Ah. That's better—now I can look into this matter carefully!"

(Reproduced from the "Daily Graphic," by special permission.)

Starts this week—Our Second Great Cricket Contest. See page 715.

What Do You Know About Business?

An article of far-reaching importance to all who are engaged in business. Useful alike to the Shop Assistant, the Warehouseman, the Clerk, the Salesman, the Traveller, the Manager, or the Proprietor of any Business, large or small.

To the thoughtless, the easy-going, or the very young man this question may at first glance seem an insult.

Such a one would answer, in an off-handed sort of way: "Why, I am *in* Business—I am a Business man. I know all about Business—or I ought to do so."

Aye, there's the rub! He *ought to do*. But does he?

Let me put the same question to you.

How much do *you* know about Business? Unless you are a rare and brilliant exception—you will probably own after a mortifying self examination, that it is precious little indeed of sound Business knowledge that you really know—confidently and surely enough to bank on.

Yet without this Business knowledge your chances of doing well for yourself in the business world are very poor ones indeed. With it, there is

No Position You Cannot Aspire To.

It is only necessary to look around, to read the daily papers, to listen to the gossip of the day, to realise that in no department of life into which intelligent men put sound knowledge and ability and "sticking in" qualities are the rewards so sure, so soon realised, and so lasting as in the great and increasingly-important world of Business.

Now what do *you* know about Business?

For instance, do you understand Book-keeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance-sheet? Do you understand exactly how the financial position of a tradesman or a firm is determined from his books? Do you understand a profit and loss account? Do you know when recovery of book debts is barred?

Do you know the law as it specially affects your own particular trade, business or calling? Do you understand the manufacturing of the goods you are concerned with or that the firm that employs you is concerned with? Do you know anything at all about manufacturing? Do you know how to figure depreciations? How to check leakage? Do you understand time-keeping systems?

You do not? Not thoroughly and authoritatively? Yet

These Things are Business Knowledge.

Do you know much about the Income Tax? Do you know Company Law? Do you know the cost of the formation of a Company? The methods of amalgamation? Do you understand the conversion of shares into stock? Do you understand Compulsory Winding-up? Do you know all about County Court Business, Judgments, etc.?

Do you understand clearly what a Bankruptcy definition is? Or what the goodwill of a business really means? Do you know about cheques and banking bills of all sorts? Do you understand the difference between Insurance and Assurance?

Do you know how to start a Business? How to secure its credit, and to buy its equipment? How to organise its departments, build up its reputation, collect its debts, rake in its profits?

Do you know anything about advertising? Would you know how to engineer separately a national advertising appeal and a local appeal?

Yet these matters are Business Knowledge. And if you want to make money in business you must either know them or know where you can get authoritative and complete and up-to-date information concerning them and concerning the thousand and one points of doubt or difficulty that beset the business man in the course of his business day.

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You cannot do without it, whether you are an ambitious young man on the threshold of your commercial life or a mature business man who dreads that he may be crowded out of the Business fight owing to the present-day stress of competition. If you are young the use of the "Business Encyclopædia" makes you proficient in

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It contains hundreds of business articles written by the most successful Business men of the day. Amongst these are: Richard Burbidge (Managing-Director Harrod's Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), A. W. Gamage, John Lawrie (Managing-Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons, H. G. Selfridge, J. H. Rosenthal (Managing-Director Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd.), Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), and many others equally successful.

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54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

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MAGISTRATE (*to burglar*): "What is your trade?"
THE HANDY ONE: "Locksmith, yer worship."
MAGISTRATE: "What were you doing when the police entered?"
THE HANDY ONE: "Making a bolt for the door."

HEARD IN THE TRAIN.

CHAFF.

NAVVY (*after treading on foot of clerk in entering carriage*): Sorry, Guvnor. 'Ope I ain't took orf the shine?

CLERK: Aw, no, my good man.

NAVVY: Spring's getting on, guv'nor.

CLERK: Aw, yes, so a fellah told me yesterday.

NAVVY: Dahn the 'lotments larst night I 'eard the cuckoo. Early, ain't it, guv'nor?

CLERK: Rawther for the time of year. But the boss told me he heard it a month ago. Expect it was a beastly boy in the hedge. I hear they often play those rotten games in the country. What?

NAVVY: P'r'aps it was, guv'nor. Artful bird the cuckoo, I don't fink. Why, my mate what larns nochral 'istory, as 'e calls it, at the night school, ses as 'ow the cuckoo chucks annuther bird out of 'is nest an' collars the bloomin' lot for 'isself.

CLERK: Aw, so the boss mentioned at luncheon yesterday.

NAVVY: Seems ter me yore boss knows somethink. S'pose 'e was eddicated at the 'versity an' you're larnin' somethink orf 'is bat?

CLERK: I don't follow you, my man.

NAVVY: I don't want yer to foller me. Yer'd funk it if yer 'ad to, not arf. I goes darn the city sooers on my job. 'Tain't orl beer an' skittles. Tork erbart tripe an' onions an' fried fish on a Sat'dy night dahn the Cut. It ain't in it. Not arf.

CLERK: Aw, it must be horribly objectionable. I suppose you refer to the gases that emanate from those underground places?

NAVVY: Gas, yer calls it? Gas ain't in it. It's a solid stink, me lad, an' it do cling. The missus say as 'ow she can smell me a-coming afore I gets rahnd the corner.

CLERK: Your conversation isn't particularly pleasant my man. I reahly would like to read my paper.

NAVVY: Nah, that's jest it. You fine gents in yer horfices, wiv yer odykerlone on yer wipes, don't know 'arf wot goes on b'low grahnd.

CLERK: I suppose you're paid for it?

NAVVY: Paid, d'yer call it? Us chaps *is* paid, in corse. But it ain't a livin' wage. 'Ow ken a man keep a wife an' five kids on twenty-five bob a week an' riskin' is life orl the time? Awnser me that, guv'nor.

CLERK: You shouldn't have married.

NAVVY: Thet's orl very pretty, guv'nor. But w'en you're courtin' yer don't fink o' that; neether do the gal. That's a fack. 'Sides, look wot the Bisherp o' London ses erbaht large families.

CLERK: Sorry I can't help you, my good man.

NAVVY: I don't want none o' yore 'elp, mister. You keep yer bloomin' quids to yerself. I'm orl right. I 'ope as 'ow Lloy' George will 'elp us pore chaps wiv some of the supplice 'e torked erbaht on Buggit night. Of corse you've 'eard orl erbaht it?

CLERK: Aw, I heard something about a thing called a Budget which a chap called Lloyd George took to the House of Commons. The boss said it was better than he expected from such a rotten chap.

NAVVY: What? You don' know orl erbaht Lloy' George an' 'is Buggit? I'm erfraid yore eddicashun 'as bin neglected. W'ere d'yer work now?

CLERK: You are a rude fellah and I don't want to talk to you.

NAVVY: Keep yer 'air on, young feller. My advice to *you* is to do wot my mate does. Go to a hevenin' school an' larn somethink erbaht politics. Then yer'll unnerstand wot I'm torkin' erbaht. Yer ain't bin weaned long, I reckons. 'Ere's my stashun. Goo' night, guv'nor.

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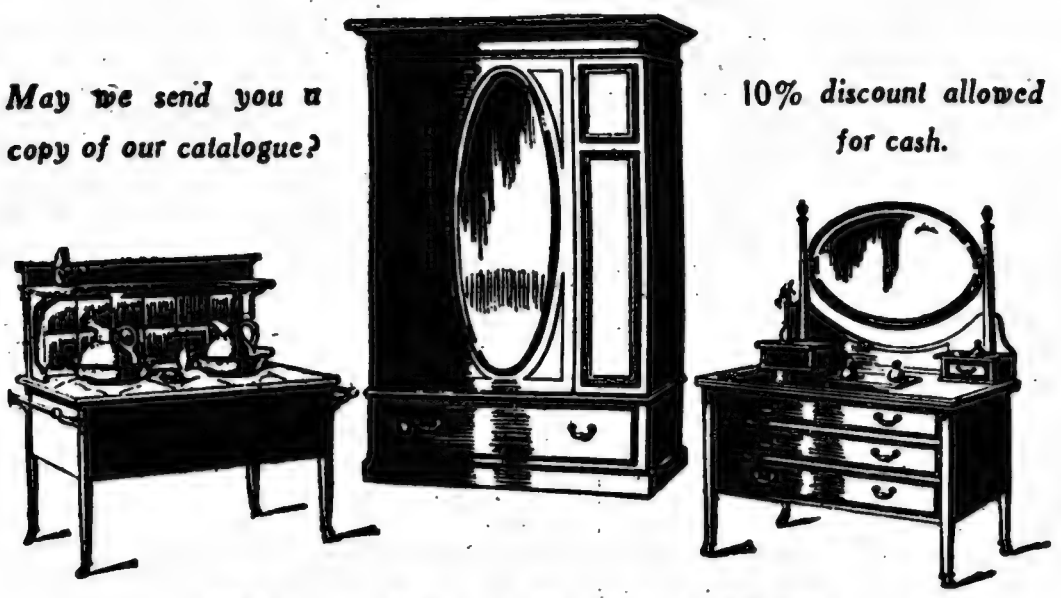

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, Admiralty, London.

Dear Mr. Churchill,—Your spirited retort on the ludicrous nosiness of the Marconi Committee in their pursuit of rumours and rumours of rumours affecting the honour and reputation of public men ought to be the beginning of the end of their stupendous futilities. Weeks ago I expressed the view that the Committee had outlived its usefulness. At the rate of its present progress through the labyrinthine absurdities, suspicions, allegations, innuendoes, tittle-tattle, fiddle-de-dee, and Party spite which have characterised its labours it will not have got much forrarder at the sound of the Last Trump. Everybody is tired of it, for everybody realised long ago how the rumours of corrupt dealing in Marconi shares have arisen. A few people opposed to the Government became aware of the dealings of Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Rufus Isaacs, and Mr. Herbert Samuel in American Marconis. They knew that Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, the manager of the British Marconi Company, was the brother of Sir Rufus Isaacs, and they concluded, first, that Sir Rufus had used his position to influence the Government in the Marconi contract through Mr. Herbert Samuel, the Postmaster-General, and, second, that he, Mr. Godfrey Isaacs, and Mr. Samuel, with Mr. Lloyd George, brought in as Chancellor of the Exchequer, commenced to feather their own nests in anticipation of a settled contract of purchase. As the allegations passed from lip to lip and were whispered from ear to ear the names of other Ministers were added. Party malice, having no thought or care for other men's honour or reputation, willing to wound and yet afraid to strike, concluded that if the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Attorney-General, and the Postmaster-General were in it, other members of the Cabinet were in it also. The new names, added to the old, began to be whispered. Stockbrokers, City and political journalists and clubmen heard them on this side and that. What was whispered was repeated; what was repeated gathered a larger and larger audience for accretions of slander, abuse and backstabbing; what everybody said was true nobody could deny; and presently it corroded its way into open accusation by means of the vitriol of Party politics. The assassins had got home at last.

That is obviously the story from genesis to revelation, Mr. Churchill. I do not doubt your name cropped up in the course of the telling, but, if at the mere mention of a name, forced out of the mouth of a reluctant witness, who says he did not and does not believe the allegations with which it was associated, the Committtee intend to drag its owner at ten minutes' notice into the fierce light of their publicity to be badgered and pestered and assailed by amateur cross-examiners seeking advertisement under the guise of public duty, I think it is evident that as one witness follows another not a member of the Government will be safe from the challenge of political acrimony or the ill-will of irresponsible gossip. As the liar is by no means to be caught, for his name is Rumour, his victim must appear at once to deny the lie or rest under odious imputation. I tell you the public has had enough of it, Mr. Churchill. The Committee lingers out its day raking up the mud for no other purpose than that of enabling its members to gain a bubble reputation as makers of mud-pies. The nation will live, though Lord Robert Cecil, Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Amery, and some of its other members, Tory and Liberal, whose names I do not recall, fade away like the baseless fabric of a vision. So far, then, as the investigation of alleged Ministerial corruption is concerned, it is time to close the Inquiry, if only that the newspapers may make other arrangements for the forthcoming silly season. Enough, even of a farce, is a feast; of a folly it is satiety. Be good enough to present Mr. Asquith and Sir Albert Spicer with my compliments, and ask them to call the legions home. John Bull.

Haldane, Lord Chancellor.

Judgment that "every Court Justice in land open to every subject of King," and that *in camera* not justified, is important assertion public liberties. You have begun well. Bull.

To Captain Despard, Chief Constable, Lanarkshire.

Dear Captain,—I am sorry to have to write to you so soon again, but I think a public protest is needed against the process which, under your blind eye, if not under your encouragement and patronage, the County police raise funds for their "Benevolent Club." The police have as much right to a benevolent club as any other body of men, but they have no right to cadge for it or to be put into the position of cadgers for it. Publicans and shopkeepers regard this cadgery with grave objections. They regard it as a compulsory police levy; they are afraid the force, under you, will in some way mark them if they do not give.

I should have thought that the Lanarkshire County Council would long since have forbidden this begging nuisance. You and they must be well aware that licensed victuallers, at any rate, have little enough for which to thank the police, and it is surely adding insult to injury to harass them for subscriptions. A man begs with the benevolent object of appeasing the bitter cry of his Little Mary for a crust of bread, the policeman runs him in, and the magistrates sentence him to 21 days' hard labour; the same policeman goes round cadging police fund subs. from door-to-door, knowing that refusal is difficult, and he receives official approval. It is time there was an end to the system. John Bull.

To Mortimer Menpes, Esq., 13, Shelley Court, Tite Street, Chelsea.

Sir,—Apropos of the Royal Academy pictures, it much fears me you have put the cat among the pigeons by your assertion that many artists should not be painting pictures at all; "better that they should produce a good tomato than a bad picture. . . . Or they might devote themselves to applied art; for instance, paint furniture, design utensils, etc." Never, surely, was so gross an outrage on the pigeons. To ask a man who is hung—whose picture is hung, of course I mean—on the walls of the Royal Academy to turn his attention to the cultivation of rubican and tomatoes—to try to whitewash a ceiling, paint a door, or give a new contour to a coal-scuttle—good gracious me, man, it is awfu' tae think o'. Get ye into sackcloth an' ashes the noo. John Bull.

To the Chairman of the Education Committee, Bromley, Kent.

Dear Sir,—What has become of that matter of Cope, the school-cleaner, referred to the Works Sub-Committee of the Council? As it stood when I last heard of it, it appeared to me your Committee had put a rather wicked twist on the poor devil. Fallen ill, he receives his wages, 10s. a week, and 7s. under the Insurance Act, but the Committee grab the 7s., on the ground that they have paid his subscriptions—and then compel him to provide a substitute while he is ill, or lose his job. As the subscriptions amount to 3d. a week, or 13s. a year, it is evident that the Council are making a profit on the man's illness. Wherefore I thought I would write and tell you that in my opinion the transaction is as dirty as it is mean.

John Bull.

To Dr. John Clifford, Westbourne Park Chapel, London.

Dear "Doc,"—I see you are on the rampage again. Like the seasoned war-horse that you are, you scent the battle from afar and are already fretting for the fray. You are mightily indignant because some Roman Catholic dignitary was recently conveyed to Malta in a British warship, and you appear to detect some sinister motive in this harmless compliment to our fellow-subjects of the Roman faith. I am quite certain there was no intention of slighting you or your co-religionists. In fact, I suspect that, if the truth were known, the Government would gladly escort you to the ends of the earth with a whole armoured flotilla—if only you would promise not to come back. *I* would!

John Bull.

Miss Trehawke Davies, Aeroplane Traveller, Hendon.

While congratulating you on narrow escape from serious injury by being thrown out motor-car in collision with tramcar, advise you leave motoring alone and stick to flying. There are no tramcars nearer moon. Bull.

Enter Our New Cricket Competition THIS WEEK. Prizes £1,000, £200, £100, £75 and £50.

WAITING FOR THE VERDICT.

A WIRELESS "S.O.S." MESSAGE FOR THE MARCONI COMMITTEE.

HANDS ACROSS THE SEAS.

LIES AND TRUTH ABOUT EMIGRATION.

Luring Out Servant Girls.

The latest "lure" of the shipping agent is to post emigration circulars and literature to servant girls at the place of their employment, the covering envelope being addressed "To the Maid of the House," and headed, "Canadian Opportunities for Domestics." "The matter enclosed," says the Johnstone (Scotland) reader who forwards it to us as his maid received it, "holds out a rosy prospect which dissatisfies them with their present surroundings and in many instances is the cause of a servant leaving a comfortable home to go abroad—to find, when too late, that these prospects have only been false allurements." We agree, and warn British servant-girls against being led away by the promises made to them. They have no idea of the conditions they may have to face in Canada, for after a voyage across the sea in a vessel on which, as third-class or assisted passengers, they will be treated little better than cattle, the situation to which they are allotted may be in a "homestead" in a freezing wilderness, where they have to drudge like slaves from five o'clock in the morning until far into the solitary night. The Scottish servant girl who leaves England for Canada merely because a shipping agent's circular tells her "a party of 50 domestics is being made up to sail for Glasgow" on such and such a date is foolish in the extreme.

Penniless Upon Montreal Wharves.

That ten thousand men and women, left penniless upon the wharves of Montreal every year are dependent upon the charitable institutions of the city, and that the latter, labouring under a heavy local burden, are becoming tired of supporting this imposition, must demand some sort of shelter to deal especially with these unfortunates, is the statement of the Rev. John Chisholm, B.A., a Montreal clergyman.

C.P.R.'s Fictitious Values.

Beware of the "Irrigation Lands" of the Canadian Pacific Railway! Beware of any promises emigration officials and agents make in their name! Mr. Hugh R. Pease, Member of the Farmers' Combined Irrigation Committees, United Farmers of Alberta, thus writes us :—

> I am sending you a copy of the *Morning Albertan*, with reference to the letter from the Minister of the Interior of Canada and the so-called Irrigation Lands of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. It is high time that this company's method of advertising their Irrigation System as a means of drawing unsuspecting emigrants from the Old Country be exposed, and that the small man from Old England be saved from losing all his means by being started wrong on the prairies on lands sold at fictitious values, and he and his family from becoming destitute and falling into the hands of that colossal and watered-down corporation, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

A Disillusioned Englishman.

"A Worker" has had enough of Brisbane, and is off to try America with money earned in the Old Country. "I have managed to exist here for six months," he says. "I am an Englishman, 26 years of age, and came out to Australia after having heard such glowing accounts of this country, the high wages, and the glorious conditions under which a worker lives. What a hideous delusion! . . . What makes me laugh so is that here you seem to have a universal wage of £1 a week and tucker for almost any variety of work—the man about the place, the groom, the motor-car driver, and the station hand—and what does a man have to do for that £1? Work about 12 hours a day and seven days a week!"

Emigrants Beware!

Here is a letter from one of our readers—which, as the lawyers say, speaks for itself :—

> I wish to bring to your notice the following: I was coming home this evening from Twickenham after the football match and was terribly surprised and upset at seeing a lot of poor people huddled together on Waterloo. I was told by the Inspector that they were emigrants sent back all the way from South America, where the authorities would not let them land. What about the authorities to let them go?

Another of the Deluded.

"The enclosed may be of some use to you in your articles, 'The Great Emigration Lie,'" says "E. T.," of Newport, near Melbourne :—

> I trust it will be a deterrent to intending emigrants to "God's Own Country"!!! I was one of the imported artisans interviewed by Mr. Whitehead (Victorian Emigration officer) in Manchester, for the motor trade early last year, and since I have been here I haven't worked in a motor shop yet. I am a body maker, and I can name fifteen that came out when I did that have never worked a day at it since they have been here, being told by the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Ashby) that there was a slump in the motor trade. Yet we were led to believe in England that it was owing to the shortage of skilled labour here that they were importing artisans. I think, instead of the *Daily Express* assisting six young men and six young women here, it would be a good thing for it to pay the fare back home of some of the gulled unemployed in Melbourne, and earn their undying gratitude.

Thousands Unemployed in Melbourne.

The enclosed to which reference is made, is the report of a meeting numbering about 1,000 persons, according to the *Melbourne Age*, at which Mr. M. Hannah, M.L.A. proposed the following resolution :—

> That this meeting deplores the fact that there are at present several thousands of men unemployed in Melbourne; that, notwithstanding the fact, the present Government is still continuing its policy of assisting immigrants to this State, knowing, in spite of denials, that there is a great dearth of employment.

The resolution was carried.

Same Old Story.

During the course of the meeting, Mr. Hannay said :—

> One immigrant showed him papers which set out that there was ample work of every description to be obtained; that farm-hands were being paid 35s. per week and their keep; that high wages were being paid in all trades, and that it was almost impossible to obtain men to fill the positions. (Laughter and jeers.) That man paid £8 for his passage, and was guaranteed work on arrival. After reaching Melbourne he had to wait several weeks before receiving employment as a farm-hand at 10s. per week. (Groans.)

Back to the Old Land.

It was reported at a meeting of the Melbourne Operative Plumbers' Union by the secretary that two of the members were returning to England, owing to their inability to get work. One man stated that he was selling off his furniture, while the other said that he was working his passage back,

Trade Union Leader's Letter.

Mr. Charles Gray, Secretary of the Trades Council. Carlton, Victoria, writes to us as follows :—

> Dear Sir,—Under separate cover I am sending a photo of a meeting of unemployed men held outside the Trades Hall, Melbourne, Victoria, on March 12th, 1913, which I have been directed by the Trades Hall Council to forward to you, with the request that you will publish same in the next issue of your paper so that intending emigrants will know the exact state of affairs obtaining here in the labour market before leaving Great Britain.

Farming in Victoria (B.C.).

"Splendid thing, farming in Canada," the emigration officials and shipping companies tell you. This is what "J. T. B.," settled in Victoria, tells us :—

> Plenty here will not have farming on any account. In some cases the farmers house their cattle better than their farm hands, and it is no wonder these city fellows won't have it. You are no sooner in bed than you have to get out again to start work. I heard in one case where a fellow had to hold an umbrella over him in bed because the roof leaked when it rained. An emigrant wants at least 800 dollars out here when he lands to get a good start. If he has not got it he might as well stay in England. A man has to slave himself to death for five or six years before he can earn enough to start on his own, the living being very high here. Of course, if a man has a trade he has a better chance than what a labourer has. There are plenty of sharks out here who are always on the look out for emigrants, and I would like you to give them warning.

Work and Wages in Brisbane.

"I herewith enclose another cutting out of a local paper," says "T. B.," of Brisbane, "in the hope that it will open the eyes of any intending emigrants to this place. The labour market is flooded, and there are hundreds out of work."

£50 Cricket Prize for Ladies. A "Mauve" Coupon wanted. See page 715.

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OUR ADVICE.

We hear a lot nowadays about the scarcity of men who are capable of earning as much as £5 a week and the struggle for existence of the thousands of men who are not able to demand more than 30s. a week to keep their wives and families.

Although in a few cases "bad luck" may be the reason, there is no disguising the fact that every man has his future in his own hands, more or less, and it is the man who realises this fact that is constantly on the look-out for opportunities for safeguarding himself against unemployment and for improving his present wage by making himself worth more money to either his present employer or a fresh one. No matter what his present occupation is, he is the kind of man who says to himself, "I will lose no time in fitting myself to enter the Motor Industry, which is now in its infancy, and which offers by far the best chances to smart men, and I will call or write at once to the Motor Industry's training centre:—The British School of Motoring, Coventry House, 5 and 6, Coventry Street, Piccadilly Circus, W. (opposite the Prince of Wales Theatre, near Leicester Square), for their Free Illustrated Prospectus (J) on how to obtain instruction in Practical Motoring and how to get a berth in the Motor Industry."

This is the kind of man who succeeds—he does not rely upon his present job or trade: he sees that he has two strings to his bow. He is the smart man—are you one also?

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MORE LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

15E, Tiddler Terrace,
Tottenham.

Dear Peggy,—I never see such a girl as you for running into trubble. Straight, the way you get things messed up is most dis-turbing.

Last time you wrote you gave me to under-stand you had a young man in tow. Used to come to the Travellers' Rest for his dinners you said, and held much converse across the food stuff.

If I remem-ber rightly, you said the per-son was so far gone that some days he used to chew your ear? Or did I dream this part?

Any-way, you been and lost him seemingly, like the others.

Its almost a wonder to me somebody don't have you removed from mortal ken. Straight though, you ought to be segg-regated, you ought reelly.

No, I can't ad-vise you how to retain any affeck-shun that comes your way. S'far's I know you got all the fizzical eqwip-ment you've any right to claim. You got as much as Eve had when she came out of the garden. Of course, if you can't make your eqwip-ment interesting I'm very sorry and its a bad job for all con-cerned.

But my private opinion is you must be up the loop.

Shouldn't worry about panuils and med-dical men if I were you. They can't offer you any reel help, not so long's you keep as you are.

What you've most need of is a pan-nil from a door. Any per-son with a slight knol-ledge of ann-atomy could per-form the treetment. Just a little join-ery would be equired to make ends meet, so to speak. You'd be all the better for it.

I'm pleased to say that Bertram and myself are still intent on fewcher joys, also that we con-vert the present time to much ad-vantage. Just a few.

You'd be sur-prised the time we spend looking round the shops. Some-times we stand for p'raps half-an-hour in front of a shop-window, ad-miring the furnicher, chatting plessantly of the uses we could put it to in retirement, and thinking tender and happy thoughts.

Some-times while thus engaged, the man inside lowers the light, else comes out and put the shutters up.

Where the shop-keeper doesn't lose his temper, and seems a person that ought to be sup-ported, we always ask for a catalog so's to put him in the running.

You got no idea what a lot of thoughts a girl can think when the fewcher's not far in front.

We looked over an empty house the other day, and while we were there, the landlord came in.

He seemed a bit breef in his replies to Bertram, but as we were leaving he ex-plained, so we parted friends.

He said he'd no idea our pur-pose was to hire the build-ing p'raps if it suited. Some young couple went in a day or two before, stayed for hours, and when they came out said they'd been looking for cig-garet pickshers.

Where-ever we get landed at the fin-nish, I 'xpeckt we shall have to get the blessid bed-room fixed up first.

When you start with only two in famly, the other parts of the house don't matter so much.

I s'pose you don't know whether a per-son ought to have the children's cot at the foot of the bed or more towards the fire-place, do you? I dessay the Reddy Reckoner would tell me, but I don't see it about. Ma's lent it to the corner shop very likely.

I offen think of my poor father's advice to those intending. Get a good bed and stick to it, he used to say, A good bed's half the battle.

And of course it don't do a bed any good to put it in the back-yard. Not unless you're leaving and want it to be handy when the barrow calls.

I don't know if my Bertram will be sim-milarly gifted, but I know for a fact that father used to think out some lovely prop-positions when in an atti-tude of rest.

Worst of it was, when he re-covered and got about again, either he used to for-get what he'd thought of, or else the arrange-ments wouldn't work. He lost several for-chunes that way.

There don't seem any more to add this time, dear, 'xcept to wish you better luck and a lot more sence.

x x x Your ever-loving friend, x x x
JANE ANN.

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"I had been thin for years, and began to think it was natural for me to be that way. Finally I read about the remarkable results brought about by the use of Sargol, so I decided to try it myself. Well, when I look at myself in the mirror now I think it is somebody else. I have put on just 2 stone 10 during the last month, and never felt stronger or more 'nervy' in my life."

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For women who can never appear stylish in anything they wear because of their thinness, this remarkable treatment may prove a revelation. It is a beauty-maker as well as a form-builder and nerve strengthener. Men increase their nerve power as well as adding many pounds of good, healthy flesh.

It will cost you nothing to prove the remarkable effects of this treatment. It is absolutely non-injurious to the most delicate system. The Sargol Company will send to anyone who sends name and address a free 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, with instructions, to prove that it does the work. They will also send you their book on "Why You Are Thin," free of charge, giving facts which will probably astonish you. Send coupon below to-day, with your name and address.

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SEE PAGE iii. OF COVER.

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Ambulance Work

is fully treated and lavishly illustrated.

Descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton, muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs of sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated.

In this connection the coloured "mannikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

The section devoted to "The Family Medicine Chest" gives the description, uses and doses of drugs, used as drops, lotions, ointments and gargles.

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Volume V. deals entirely with the Health and Diseases of Women. It will be found useful to mothers who wish their daughters to grow up into healthy women. Midwifery and the diseases of infants and children are fully treated.

There is a section devoted to Invalid Cookery, and a complete series of physicians' prescriptions will be found both reliable and useful.

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It is safe to say that in a large household embracing human items of every age or sex, the point of doubt or difficulty, the unexpected accident or emergency, could not arise that could not be immediately and satisfactorily dealt with with this splendidly practical work at hand.

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Mr. A. H. HART, 18, Canbury Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:—

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John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 720.
For Sporting Replies, see page 724.

"ENGLISHMAN" (New York) tells us he bought a copy of our paper in Fifth Avenue, and was glad to see we are trying to run to earth the murderer of the little Girl Scout. He thinks papers might help more in this direction. So do we.

"DISGUSTED" (Durham) says he was in the Territorials at the time of the Coronation, and was selected to come to London to take part in that function—which he did. He was given to understand that he would be presented with a medal, but to his disgust he cannot obtain it, though he hnds an officer in his corps, who was not present at the ceremony, wearing one. Our correspondent asks our aid in the matter. We are afraid the best we could do for him would be a dog biscuit.

W. A. (Blackpool).—We must be charitable. Remember that April 1st was everybody's day out.

L. B. (Essex).—Sorry the letters of Elmer E. Knowles, the protean humbug and charlatan of Westminster Bridge Road, London, has so frightened your daughter that he has "something to do with the White Slave Traffic that she dare not go out alone at night." As we have often explained, he is a Yankee adventurer, and the "personal friend" mentioned in his circular has no existence in fact.

H. J. H. (Ramsgate).—Even the principal of a boarding school is entitled to be a "semi-lunatic," as you describe him, if he wants to, or if he can't help it. But if you can obtain the written testimony of those concerned that he keeps a sort of Dotheboys Hall, after the manner of Squeers, and "practically starves the boys," that is another thing.

P. S. (Stourbridge).—Clerks under the Insurance Commissioners are certainly badly rewarded.

G. M. (Birkenhead) says that somebody in his neighbourhood—probably in order to justify a vain boast of knowledge of football matters—is stating that he has received a letter from us admitting that he forwarded an absolutely correct forecast in our recent Competition, but that he has been disqualified on account of the coupon being torn. Our readers hardly need to be assured that there is not a word of truth in this. As we have already stated, no absolutely correct coupon was received at all. Even had one reached us in a torn condition it would not have been disqualified, but would have been mounted upon special paper and sealed and checked in the ordinary way. G.M. does not give us the name and address of this spiteful Ananias. Would not he like to earn the £1,000 we recently offered to anyone enabling us to bring such slanderers to book?

DR. T. A. (Belfast).—You "have sent the following letter to the *British Weekly*." Why take the trouble?

J. H. (T. R., South Shields).—What are *you* doing with a "Plan of Appointments" for local preachers on the Witney Circuit? And why should you think we are interested in the fact that under the heading, "Preachers' names and Residences" should appear "J. Field, Heaven"? His is a happy home.

G. A. C. (Aberdeen).—We should not care to designate the Lord Provost of Aberdeen by the terms which you describe him on the strength of the letter you send us. The Home Secretary's explanation of his action under the Insurance Act *re* certain workmen of his may be a gloss, or even a whitewash; on the other hand, it may be literal truth. It is often wicked, and always foolish, to believe only what you wish to believe.

E. W. (Brightlingsea).—"I now venture to trespass on your valuable space," so you remark, "to ask if you cannot stir up England to put an end to these disgraceful Suffragettes." You are forgiven. You can put your money on us as stirrers, but murdering is not in our line.

D. C. Mc. R. (Banff).—Your suggestion that Sheriff Substitute Murray should have given three years instead of sixty days to the monster he convicted of tearing-out a pony's tongue does credit to your indignation, but he has not the power to inflict such a sentence.

MRS. D. (Kentish Town).—Sorry we cannot help you to overcome the hooligans who besiege your premises. It is the business of the police to protect you.

"AMUSED" (Melton Mowbray).—We have enough to do watching our own pie without worrying about the other fellow's. If a "special correspondent" of the *Mail* knows nothing of Croxton Park Races, as you suggest, you can take our word for it we know less.

T. R. S. (Teddington).—Don't be angry. If we sat up twenty-four hours a day, we could not possibly keep pace with our letter bag. If you saw us now, you would hear us groaning neck deep in the midst.

E. A. G. (Walworth).—How do you do? You must be a very new reader, otherwise you would not tell us you "have a friend wishing to go to Australia, but before going would like to know what prospects there are there." The prospects are lovely in parts, but the realisations are apt to be a bit mixed. As he is "a carman by trade" and has a big family by birth, he had better stay in England.

L. S. (Hull).—See answer to W. S. (Bedford) last week. Your correspondent is Prince William Zwennes, so it may be you would do better with him than W. S. has with his particular nigger.

"CARPENTER" (London, W.).—It would not be right for us to describe The Albany, in Vigo Street, W., as a death-trap, even on your word as a carpenter and joiner familiar with the building. We know some very wealthy people living there

J. P. W. (Redcar).—The advertisements of Williams and Lloyd, 89, Cornwallis Road, London, W., are deliberately worded to mislead, for "should you take advantage of our marvellous offer" apparently refers to sending 8d. for the chain, and not to selling their postcards, about which they do not mention a syllable. Williams and Lloyd may safely be characterised as advertising tricksters. Sorry we cannot enter into correspondence *re* "Bullets."

C. L. (Plymouth).—We cannot tell you what "becomes of all the money forwarded to the Salvation Army." It is a religious secret.

MRS. W. (Howick), F. M. N. (Staines), and others.—We have had several complaints of the suspicious manner in which the Beaconsfield Manufacturing Co., of 80, Chancery Lane, London, are conducting their business.

W. R. (Penton).—Thanks. We will tell your stories some Sunday evening in the drawing-room.

F. S. (Plymouth).—You do not think your open letters to Mr. Winston Churchill funny, do you? They are now blazing furiously.

H. J. P. (Richmond).—As your friend "had twenty-two stamps on his card when he was out of work, and twenty-five weeks given in, and he has not received his money yet—which was seven weeks ago, though he has written to the Richmond office, and all he can get from them, they are looking into his case"—we think you are justified in assuming "a great neglect on someone's part." Perhaps they are inquiring into his birthmarks.

N. W. (Turner's Hill).—We are glad you have so high an opinion of the Hellingly County Asylum, and are so grateful to the doctors who did their best for you. Gratitude is about the scarcest thing there is in this world.

A. C. (Clapham).—You "sell distemper at 10d. a pail, but call it whitewash when used for Cabinet Ministers." How do you sell Welsh rabbits?

G. E. (Poste Restante, Singapore).—Thanks for writing your very long letter to "let us know the truth of matters regarding the Hong Kong pilotage," but if we printed it, our faithful Bullites would probably tell us to go to Hong Kong.

"Bullets" THE STRAIGHT Competition with most Prizes.

S. M. S. (Leeds).—The letter you sent to the Yorks *Evening Post*, and which was published by them, has no doubt had the effect you desire.

M. S. (N. London).—It was heartless and unchristian of the vicar of the church as, in your own words, your dead father-in-law "was not a bad corps or had not done anything wrong." Let us hope that when the time of the vicar comes he will not have more to repent of.

H. M. (Cinderford).—On inquiry we suspect the difference in treatment would resolve itself into the fact that the fever-stricken child of the J.P. could be isolated and carefully nursed at home, and that the child of your customer could not. Let us all be as just as we can.

F. A. (Tottenham).—If we knew whether Mozart composed "Seldephine" for grand opera we would inform you. As to whether "George Fowler left for North Borneo in 1856 or was it South Australia," we are not quite certain.

J. W. (Widnes).—If the man "eloped with about £85 belonging of his employers" your £4 15s. was probably among it; but if he was the manager, and you hold a receipted account, it does not matter how he signed it, for you are not to know what arrangements existed between him and them. Demand the set of teeth for which you paid their manager.

C. B. (London).—The members of the Metropolitan Water Board are nominated by the constituted authorities of the water area (537 square miles) for three years ending June 1st, 1913.

"PATRIOT" (Dowlais).—In the circumstances, for particulars of naturalisation you had better refer to the Argentine minister in London, Senor V. J. Dominguez, 2, Palace Gate, London, W.

N. B. (Long Norton).—Obliged for sending us the election address, indicating that JOHN BULL has been standing for Seaford. We trust he made it sit up.

J. B. (Glasgow).—It is all a question of the facts. The Council are against you on inquiry, and in these circumstances it is clearly not possible to carry the matter further. If you wish to re-open it in the form of a criminal libel, you probably know how to do it.

E. H. R. (Wandsworth).—Sorry you have had to quit the hair dressing as a failure after having paid £40 for a two months' course of instruction. Hope you didn't cut anybody's ear off with the scissors or head off with the razor. Accidents will happen in the best regulated barbers' you know.

M. R. G. (Balham).—The correct name is Skodra, not Scutari.

G. S. (Birmingham).—Yes, it is a "shop" within the meaning of the Act, but if they were premises used solely for boot-repairing it wouldn't be a shop. Funny land we live in, isn't it?

"FRED" (Chorlton).—The fact is that the Parliamentary system is all awry. An M.P. is a gentleman who votes for or against a Government as and when he is told. A Government is a collection of gentlemen who instruct the majority of M.P.s when and how to vote. A Cabinet is a group of gentlemen inside the Government who control the whole legislative machine and don't care an Assouan for anybody.

W. B. (Leicester).—£39 spent in furnishing three rooms for the master and matron of Hinckley Workhouse may, or may not, be extravagance, but when you say a £17 suite of furniture would "do credit for Park Lane," we at once suspect you do not know Park Lane. Bless you, man, in Park Lane the coal-boy sits down on a golden chair, while he shovels up the coals with a silver shovel.

SIDNEY R. (Brixton).—Because a man has sometimes to dress like a waiter is no reason why he should often spell like a duke.

MRS. P. (Eastbourne).—As we do not know in what circumstances the Guardians took your two children and have sent one to Canada, it would serve no purpose to tell you "more about the Habeas Corpus Act."

"DISGUSTED RESIDENT" (Cardiff).—We do not think the form of application necessarily barred the committee from appointing an outsider if they thought the youth was more suitable for the post. Why so much ado about nothing?

"HADSOME" and others (Smethwick).—It is as the author of Solomon has said: there is nothing new under the sun. Here you have all been inventing safety railway-door locks, and one of you, "after spending lots of money and wasting lots of time exhibiting same in front of certain railway directors," finds that the "Board of Trade won't take it up." In this case, you may all as well put it down.

J. R. M. (Taunton).—You have lost. It was Abraham Lincoln who said it, at Gettysburg: "That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish."

J. R. T. (Tientsin).—Queer that the Chinese Ministers should appeal to the Christian churches to pray for 'em? Not a bit of it, dear sir. We wish to remark, and our language is plain, that for ways that are dark and for tricks that are vain, the heathen Chinee is peculiar.

J. H. (Boro').—You think it would be to every working man's advantage to become a member of the John Bull League and vote for a Business Government? So do we. So, by-and-by, will they.

L. R. W. (Twickenham).—Get rid of the idea that kings are no use "because they don't work." In these days, at any rate, "Kings are like stars—they rise and set; they have the worship of the world, but no repose."

"NONNAG" (Ashton-under-Lyne).—"Having answered an ad. and received what they call a pair of Magic Foot Drafts free," you wish to know whether they are any use for rheumatism. They are an old quack fake.

C. S. S. (N. Kensington).—"Enclosed letter from Mr. Masterman on the subject of the recent par. in JOHN BULL." Which par.? We cannot undertake to search for a needle in a wheatfield.

"N. LONDON DRIVER." *Re* L.G.O.C. It is not our custom to challenge anything or anybody on anonymous letters. Why should we fire bullets in the open for people who slink behind a hedge? Your screed is hereby cast into the fiery furnace.

"SERANGOON" (Wimbledon).—We quite agree it is not fair for the District or any railway to allow you "only half-time on a month or under" during which season tickets are in disuse through holiday, but it is you who stigmatise this as "Nothing more or less than sheer daylight robbery," not us.

W. E. R. (Brixton Oval).—There is nothing in your contention which will relieve anyone of his obligations under the Insurance Act. What is the name of the Society "which has recently overstepped the mark and really become a rather gigantic fraud?" Also what are the facts? In plain black and white, if you please.

E. N. (Dover).—It is a local matter in which there may be so many twists and turns of which only local people can have adequate knowledge and is better left to them. Why not a town's meeting of protest, if your contention is right?

A. L. (Gorleston).—The resolution of the Lynn Town Council that in future all labourers over 70 employed by the Council should work four hours a day for five days a week at 5s. a week looks like a problem in vulgar fractions.

D. P. (Keighley).—The moneylender who advanced you £44 and let you get out for £56 was a Christian compared to many we wot of. There are two sides (at least) to the moneylending question. Read "The Merchant of Venice."

L. R. P. and others (Oxford).—It is a sort of incipient *sabotage* with which we have no sympathy whatever. Strikers may strike and mustardettes may be hot stuff, but when it comes to interfering with tramway brakes and doing wilful damage to other people's property, it is not for us to shed the bitter tear if they get severely punished.

F. T. J. (Gloucester).—Thanks for letting us know that the man who has been going about the country imposing on shopkeepers with his "Stramonium cigarettes," has been sent to gaol for 15 months' hard labour by Recorder Vachell. As we were aware, there were many previous convictions against him.

J. C. (Stockport).—The *Titanic* Fund is being distributed by Mr. Stewart, the Public Trustee. Write for the particulars you want, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

A. F. L. (Canonbury).—For about the thousandth time, we hereby inform you and the rest of the universe that the Rand "offer" is a fool-catching swindle.

H. V. (Hayling Island).—We have frequently advised people not to deal with W. Cooper and Co., of 761, Old Kent Road, S.E. It is characteristic of this firm to retain the moneys of their customers for months before they deliver the goods, and to send misleading explanations by postcard. It looks as if they were trading on their customers' capital, and not on their own.

"NORTH CUMBERLAND READER" (Carlisle).—You are by no means the only marksman enthusiastic enough to believe that bullet-firing is "a fascinating recreation," tending to "the educational betterment of a large number of the working classes."

H. V. (Newton Abbott).—(1) As you tell us that at a recent dog show held in Exeter there were 35 prizes, of which Vicary took 29, Martin 4, and Darney 2, we will believe you. If it had been anybody else we should have inquired into his reputation for veracity. (2) It does not follow because the auctioneer Stooke, occasionally puts in a bid himself that the auctioneer's Stooke a liberty, as you lamentably suggest. He was entitled so to do.

E. W. W. (Nottingham)—Every policeman who arrests a man for drunk, dis. and "using language not to be found in the dictionary" tells "a pack of lies"! The aforesaid drunk and dis., on the contrary, always tells the truth.

"GEORGE" (Hull).—"What, pray, is the origin of that silly phrase, 'I *don't* think,' which seems to have been imported here from London?" The people who don't think—don't know.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

Another £1,000 for Cricket Forecasts. See page 715.

Bull's Eyes.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Why isn't your *name* in that prize list on page 723?
Is the Royal Academy any worse than usual?
Aren't some of our judges beyond "the limit"?
Is raising a "shine" the best way to get brighter cricket?
Are the "Houses that Jack (Burns) builds" the only ones?
Isn't it good of the Welsh miners to "strike while the weather's hot"?
Wouldn't the Balkan Allies prefer to "help themselves" to Turkey?
When is the War Office going to prepare for the "trouble in the air"?
Wasn't there plenty of "free" speech in Trafalgar Square the other day?
"Are City clerks in chains?" asks a morning journal. Possibly; it doesn't take most of them long to get to the end of their tether.

* * *

Some Pictures *Not* at the Academy:—
"The Perfect Woman."
"A Penitent Sufiragette."
"A Queue outside a Church."
"Bishop Blank's Wine Cellar."
"The Bowl Call—Mid-Channel."
"A Waterplane in Mid-Atlantic."
"Stafford House in the Sunlight."
"Lord Northcliffe Flying the Pacific."
"The Kaiser surrounded with Doves."
"A Happy Group at a Panel Surgery."
"Mr. Bottomley Dining with Mr. Astbury, K.C."
"The Silver Reaches—A Vignette off Blackfriars."
"An Overworked Policeman—A Study in Blue."
"Rare and Refreshing Fruit—Grown at Limehouse."
"Apollo and Venus—A Bargee and his old Dutch."
"The Meeting of Mr. Asquith and Mrs. Pankhurst."
"The Smile of Happiness—A Study at the Dentist's."

* * *

Infants Discussing Father's Profession:—
The Doctor: "Father sells babies and makes pills."
The Official at Carey Street: "My father's a Bankrupt."
The Barrister: "My dad wears a wig, and gives judges a good talking to."
The Journalist: "My father writes letters for the papers on a little piano."
The Financier: "My father don't work: he minds other people's money."
The Artist: "My dad paints faces and bullocks; and people with nothing on."
The Electrician: "Dad makes those taps in the wall that turn the light on."
The Comedy Actor: "Dad dresses up at theatres, and makes a fool of himself."
The Commercial: "Dad's in the country all the week joking with shopkeepers."
The Solicitor: "Father makes out blue papers for people, and takes all their money."
The Vicar: "Father preaches on Sundays, and other days sprinkles babies in his night-shirt."
The Bank Clerk: "Father counts money all day in the City, and on Saturday brings home as much as he likes."

* * *

Many a true word is spoken behind our backs.

* * *

Matrimony would soon be a lost art if we could begin at the end.

* * *

Don't talk about yourself, your friends will do plenty of that for you.

* * *

The man who wins a girl by flattery, becomes painfully candid after the honeymoon.

* * *

Tramcars, like misfortunes, seldom come singly; after twenty minutes wait for one, six come at once.

* * *

A woman judge has been appointed in California. "Laying the law down," however, is no new occupation of woman.

* * *

The average woman who thinks she would be happy if she had a vote, is the same one who used to think she would be happy if she had a husband.

* * *

Husband: "Oh, d——, I've dropped a sovereign in the fire."
Wife rushes up excitedly.
Husband: "Oh, it's gone now. It was a halfpenny stamp."

* * *

It is stated that the continual use of the steel punch often puts a conductor's thumb out of action for some time. Many husbands now want to buy one for their wives.

"Piano-playing Owl," says a heading. More bad spellin

* * *

Wheat is nearly a foot high in many parts of Beds. Hot-Beds, apparently.

* * *

About 15,000,000 golf balls are used in England every year. Round numbers.

* * *

The flower growing industry is a very good one in spite of its being carried on at cut prices.

* * *

Cats are said to be rare in Government offices. Perhaps there are too many old dogs about.

* * *

Blind girls are the best telephone girls, it is stated. Then why do they employ deaf ones?

* * *

The advertiser who wishes to find a village where there is no scandal must be a woman-hater.

* * *

"Eightpence a Mile," is the name of a new revue. No trouble over the pet role, we hope?

* * *

"Are women less truthful than men?" asks a morning paper. We doubt if it is quite as bad as that.

* * *

The "query" feather is the hat trimming of the moment. Curiously enough, it seems to answer.

* * *

"The Bishop of Birmingham descended into the pit," says a report. A relief to know it was at a colliery.

* * *

A girl charged with theft pleaded that she could not have run away because of her hobble skirt. A lame excuse.

* * *

"Twopence for Red Tape," was an item in the accounts of a Suffolk Council. Would that Westminster's was no more!

* * *

Lord Halsbury suggests that cartoonists might take a lesson in beauty. But they are always drawing some "beauty."

* * *

A man fined £25 for breaking a fire alarm, said he did it to make the brigade smart. They returned the compliment.

* * *

Although Lord Haldane has been appointed a Knight of the Thistle, it must not be taken that he considers the Law a Ass.

* * *

The early crop of mushrooms got a ha'penny daily young man into trouble; he neglected to speak of them as "edible fungi."

* * *

Furniture said to be 5,000 years old from Egypt has been purchased for a New York Museum. Not from a fakir we hope.

* * *

Many schoolboys, as the result of medical examination, were found to be overclad. In anticipation of the birch, no doubt.

* * *

"The journalist goes everywhere at the word of his editor," says the *Athenæum*. Save to that place he is most often told to go to.

* * *

There is stated to be a plot to convey Mrs. Pankhurst out of the country by aeroplane. The country is at last taking an interest in flying.

* * *

There is a place of worship for every 722 people in England. This gives the man whose church holds only five hundred a legitimate excuse for stopping away.

* * *

Dr. Forbes Winslow states that one of the principal complaints of cab-drivers is failing eyesight. We suggest that the learned doctor tries to pass a penny for a two-shilling piece.

* * *

A man on the Continent, after being in a trance, awoke and addressed his nurse in a phrase which was discovered to be Arabic. Theonly new thing about this is the name of the language.

* * *

Mr. Needie, assistant editor of the *Burlington Magazine*, giving evidence, said he conveyed the sum of £200 from the plaintiff's mother to Oscar Wilde. Evidently Oscar Wilde found a friend in Needie.

* * *

Dr. F. G. Vesey states, "What the suburbs of London will have to shew on its outskirts in 50 or 60 years to come is too dreadful to contemplate." What concerns us is, whether skirts will be worn at all 50 or 60 years hence.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.

We cannot receive applications for tickets, or act as agents in remitting money in connection with this Sweepstake. ALL communications must be addressed to Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

"Continuous Merit" Prizes. A New "Bullets" Feature. See page 722.

ANOTHER MAMMOTH CRICKET PRIZE OFFER!

One Thousand Pounds

FOR ALL FORECASTS CORRECT.

FOR NEAREST FORECASTS SHORT OF FULL NUMBER.	FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT FORECASTS	FOR "RUNNER-UP" SENDING NEXT BEST	SPECIAL LADIES' PRIZE.
£200	£100	£75	£50

THIS week we commence our second great Cricket Contest. The above five huge cash prizes are now offered, simply for exercising your skill and knowledge of the great summer pastime. As a guide to Cricket form we give with the coupon the results of last year's matches.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

On page 2 of our cover you will find a coupon giving twenty matches which will be played on dates between June 2nd and 16th.

Cross out in ink the club you think will *lose*. If you predict a draw do not cross out either club.

Matches commenced and unfinished count as draws. If both sides score an equal number of runs the match will be regarded as being drawn.

Matches not commenced at all, not a single ball being bowled, will be ignored. Thus—

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

£1,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an Entrance Form giving a correct forecast of all the matches given. In the unlikely event of no entrance form being received containing all the correct forecasts, we shall award the huge sum of **£200 IN CASH** to the competitor sending most correct forecasts, even if the number be only 8 or 10. *In addition* we shall award **£100 IN CASH** to the competitor sending in the next highest number of correct forecasts and **£75 IN CASH** as a third prize to the "runner up" sending the next best forecasts.

You can send in as many entries as you like. Any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope.

The COUPON will be found ON THE INSIDE of FRONT COVER.

Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but EVERY coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

The competition is one of skill, and we recommend readers to study the cricket columns of the daily papers.

As a guide to competitors we give with the coupon on page 2 of cover last year's results of the matches we have selected for this competition.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

1. On the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover cross out in ink by running a pen through the names, the clubs you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either club.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided; cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "**JOHN BULL,**" **25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.**, mark envelope in top left-hand corner, **Cricket Competition, NO. 2,** so as to reach us not later than first post **Monday, June 2nd,** but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The £1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches, as published in the "Sporting Life."

4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all the correct results, £200 will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the largest number of correct forecasts, short of the full number. £100 to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts, and £75 to the runner-up sending the next best forecasts. In addition a distinct cash prize of £50 will be awarded to the lady sending most correct forecasts on a MAUVE COUPON taken from MARY BULL.

5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received.

6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

7. Any effort on which an alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the £1,000 prize or the contingent prizes of £200, £100 and £75, as well as the special £50 ladies' prize, will be equally divided.

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY.

£50 For a "MAUVE" Coupon.

Every lady reader of JOHN BULL should enter the above competition. They can do so by filling in the coupon on page 2 of our cover, But to win the special **£50** ladies' prize the **mauve coupon** on the cover of **Mary Bull** must be used. Thus by sending a mauve coupon lady readers have the opportunity of winning not only the £1,000 prize or the contingent prizes of £200, £100 and £75, but also *an extra and distinct* cash prize of £50. Enter this week and get your lady friends to do likewise.

SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES EARLY. DO IT NOW.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 722. where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered this week. in addition to more than 5,500 cash and other prizes to the value of over £1,295

John Bull League Notes.

(By the General Secretary.)

Birmingham.—A public meeting will be held at Somerville Road School, Small Heath, on Thursday, May 15th, at 8.30 p.m. This meeting, which will end the second series, will be followed by an open-air campaign.

Bristol.—I regret to announce the resignation of Mr. W. P. Frankhan as local Secretary of the Branch, but his position will be ably filled by Mr. S. Cleak, of 11, Argyle Road, St. Paul's, to whom all communications should now be addressed. The local Executive have arranged for a series of monthly meetings and the syllabus will be in the hands of members shortly.

Shrewsbury.—Application forms for membership of the newly-created branch are now being circulated. They should be signed and returned at once to the local Secretary, at 29 and 30, Bellstone.

Cardiff.—The local Branch will hold a grand social and reunion of members on Friday, the 23rd inst., at the Bristol and South Wales Hotel, Penarth Road, Cardiff. A number of excellent artists have kindly promised their services. Admission can be obtained upon the presentation of a current copy of John Bull, or by ticket to be obtained from Messrs. S. H. Howell, 38, Burlington Terrace, Canton, Cardiff, and R. W. Webb, 3, Ceridwen Terrace, Pontypridd.

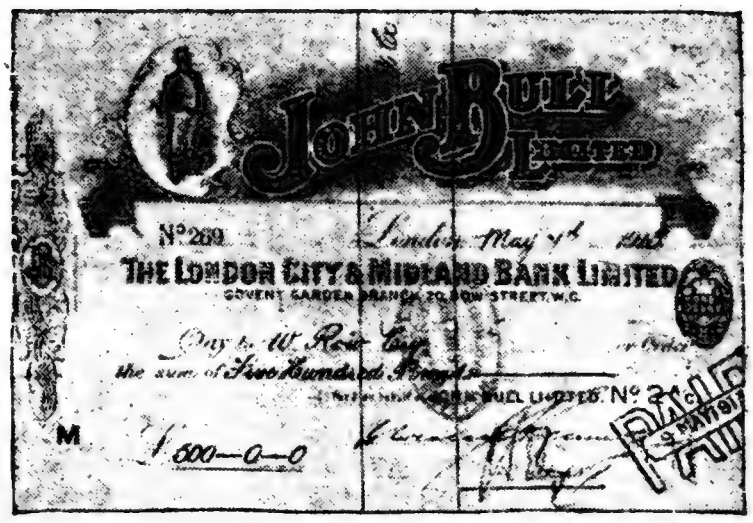
Portsmouth.—The annual business meeting of the Branch will be held at the Mile End Tavern, Commercial Road, Landport, on Thursday, May 22nd, at 8 p.m.

(Application for membership form will be found on page ii of cover.)

OUR 29TH "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

MANCHESTER VETERAN WINS £500.

Mr. William Row, of Examiner Buildings, Manchester, the winner of our 29th "Bullets" Competition, has been in the office of a firm of Incorporated Insurance Brokers for several years, is married, and is the proud father of six young children, who are naturally delighted at his success, and as he says, "will benefit in many ways, now and by-and-bye, by the handsome award." Unlike


John Bull Limited
No 269
London May 4th 1913
The London City & Midland Bank Limited
Covent Garden Branch, 20, Bow Street, W.C.
Pay to W. Row Esqr
the sum of Five Hundred Pounds
John Bull Limited No 21
M
£500—0—0

our last winner, Mr. Row is getting towards the other end of life—he can number three-score years—but, he tells us, is still young enough to enjoy the pastime of shooting "Bullets"! The original of the above cheque will be on view in the window of Mr. O. Freedenson's newsagency, Exchange Stage, Victoria Street, Manchester, until May 17th, and thence until May 21st at the establishment of Mr. J. Mamelock, 33, Oxford Road, Manchester. The cheque for the second prize (£75) will be exhibited at Mr. Middleton's, 73, Victoria Road, Great Yarmouth.

OUR FINAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

The original of the cheques for £250 and £50 awarded to the winners, will be on view in the windows of the shops of Mr. W. Goode, 19, Clifton Road, Rugby, and Messrs. Britten and Hill, 70, High Street, Dudley, respectively, on and after May 15th.

Photo. : Dover Street Studios

Nerve Fatigue, Lassitude

Mr. ROBERT RADFORD (the well-known Concert Singer) writes:—"I have derived the greatest benefit from Phosferine, which has done more to help me to fulfil my arduous Concert and Opera Engagements than anything I have ever taken. When the nerves are over-fatigued and one is vocally relaxed, Phosferine immediately restores resonance and brightness to the voice, banishes lassitude, and generally tones up the system."—63, Haverstock Hill, London, N.W.

No other medicine has received such absolute proof of its extraordinary properties in restoring Shattered Constitutions, and in giving back to the prematurely aged New Life and Energy.

CAUTION

There is only one Phosferine—beware of illegal imitations—do not be misled by PHOSPH THIS or PHOSPH THAT, but get

PHOSFERINE

THE REMEDY OF KINGS

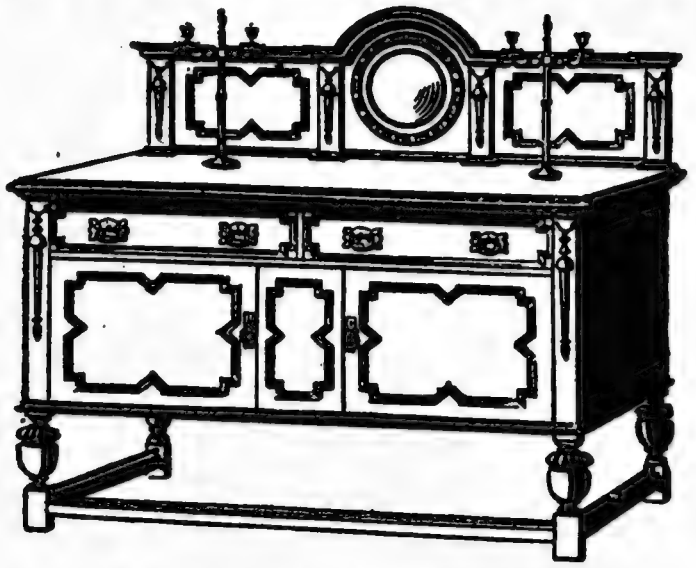
Supplied by Royal Commands

To the Royal Family
H.I.M. the Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Spain

H.M. the late King of Greece
H.M. the Queen of Roumania
H.M. the Queen of Spain, etc.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

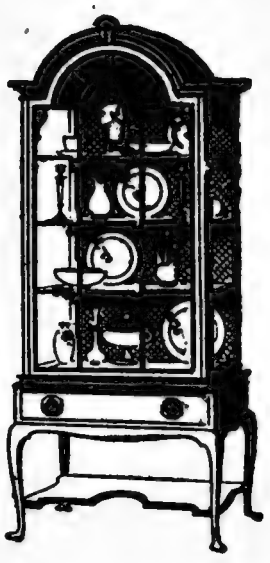
Distinctive Furniture



THE Sideboard illustrated above is an exceptionally handsome reproduction of a 16th century design. It is beautifully made of solid figured oak enriched with carving and ornaments. It has two large cupboards, one fitted with a cellarette, and two roomy drawers. The fittings are armour bright. The whole effect of this handsome piece is very fine, and the workmanship is of the highest class throughout. 5 ft. wide, 4 ft. 10 in. high, 1 ft. 10 in. deep.

Price £12 12s.

A particularly charming China Cabinet in Queen Anne style, with handsome shaped top and serpentine fronted shelves. Very carefully constructed of solid mahogany and lined with silk. The charming simplicity so characteristic of the Queen Anne period is typified in this attractive piece. It offers exceptional value at the price asked. 6 ft. 3 in. high, 2 ft. 6 in. wide, 1 ft. 4 in. deep. **Price £10 10s.**



TERMS.

Worth.			Month.		
£10	...	...	£0	6	0
£20	...	...	0	11	0
£30	...	...	0	17	0
£40	...	...	1	5	0
£50	...	...	1	8	0
£100	...	...	2	5	0
£200	...	...	4	10	0

Larger amounts pro rata.
10% Discount for Cash.

Railway Fares Paid.
Country Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered free.

Second-Hand Dept.
Our Second-hand Department alone contains over £10,000 worth of Furniture Send for special weekly Second-hand Catalogue.

A Complete Furnishing Guide.

We have prepared a very elaborate complete Guide to the furnishing of the House, containing hundreds of illustrations and several coloured plates. A copy will be sent you post free on request.

Midland

Furnishing Company, Ltd.,

Lonaon's Leading Furnishers,

15 to 23, Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Hours—9 till 8. Sats.—9 till 1.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter Box, see page 720.*]

The Stock Markets.

The trouble with Montenegro having been settled, the political barometer stands at "Set Fair," and the stock markets are rising. Last week, just before the holidays, profit-taking caused some reactions from the best points touched, but the general view is that the present week will see the commencement of a strong revival and of a further upward movement. Gilt-edged stocks are improving, Home Rails are much better, and so are Kaffirs and Rhodesians. Home Rails had the additional support of the announcement of the raising of rates on June 1st. The huge Brazilian Loan has not gone well, the underwriters having had to take 94 per cent. The Yankee market is still suffering from the difficulty of arranging the Pacific merger, but Copper is working into a very favourable position, as, in addition to the reduction in the European visible supply, the United States stocks have decreased in April by 29 million lbs., to which extent consumption has exceeded production. Tin is also in a very good statistical position, but some of the older Nigerian Tin shares are neglected for new ones, about which very little is known. Concerning Diamond shares, an amalgamation between the De Beers and the Jagersfontein is again rumoured. The Oil share market is bracing up preparatory to a further rise. A jump in Para rubber is attributed to the squeezing of a large Bear. In the meantime, First Latex Plantation is quoted 4d. per lb. lower, although of better quality, and Rubber shares are neglected, with the exception of some of the Paris favourites. The Chinese Five-Power Loan is meeting with increased opposition, and the issue is, therefore, postponed. Canadian Pacifics are again fluctuating wildly, and whenever they go over 250 Berlin sells them down again. Mexican Rails are neglected, and so are Argentines, but the revival, which may reasonably be expected, should affect the whole of the markets.

Pearl Life Assurance Co.

A medical man sends us a newspaper report of a County Court action brought by a widow against this company. The doctor favours us with some pertinent remarks upon what he considers should be the attitude of companies towards the industrial poor who effect these small policies on lives which the agents, he contends, must know are not good, but which are accepted without any medical examination. It appears that the widow in question effected this assurance on the life of her husband without his knowledge, on being assured by the agent that he need never know. The agent was competing for a prize "offered to the agent who secured the largest amount of business in a given time," and was necessarily anxious to win the reward. The husband having died, the widow expecting to receive the sum assured, £25, was offered £2 os. 11d., and apparently signed a paper accepting this amount in full settlement of the claim. Subsequently, she alleged that she was induced by means of a trick to sign the paper. After long arguments, and on giving evidence, the widow declined to charge the agent with fraud, and, in the circumstances, the judge held that she must be bound by the receipt she had given. During the hearing, the counsel for the company elicited that the assured had been under medical treatment for a cold. The existence of heart disease was also suggested and denied; it was further suggested that in the course of his employment as a carter for a period of twelve years the assured had his legs broken on three separate occasions. These matters were evidently not disclosed to the Company at the time the proposal was made. Our correspondent, writing from a medical point of view, points out that these small policies are accepted without medical examination, and the proposal form is filled in in good faith by the person assuring. He properly mentions that members of the industrial classes do not understand the gravity of symptoms and certainly have no knowledge of a hidden disease that may be existent at the time they are insuring, and then when the assured dies the policy is void because the statements were false or material facts were not disclosed. He concludes: "I cannot help thinking that very explicit information should be given to the one who is insuring, or anyhow that if a company is willing to grant a policy on a life without a medical examination, and on the acceptance of statements made which were true so far as the policy holder was concerned, they should stand by their contract." Hear, hear.

Goodlet, Fairbairn and Berry's Latest.

Messrs. Goodlet, Fairbairn and Berry, to whose unsuccessful promotions we have frequently drawn attention, are inviting people to underwrite at par, subject to a commission of 5 per cent., 80,000 shares in a new concern called Trinidad Steamships Oilfields, Ltd., which the Trinidad Petroleum Developments, Ltd., housed in Messrs. Goodlet, Fairbairn and Berry's offices, proposes to sell to the Company at a profit of £30,000. The Syndicate also underwrites for a commission of 5 per cent., plus an over-riding commission of 2½ per cent., 55,000 of the 80,000 shares issued. The document before us, which is described as an "advance prospectus for underwriting purposes only," leaves several points to the imagination of intending underwriters, namely the respective dates of three material contracts, the extent to which the directors are interested in the promotion of the Company or in the property proposed to be acquired by it, and last, but by no means least, the exact location of the latter.

Another River Plate Steamship Purchase.

Our readers will remember that we were the first to announce the purchase of the Nelson Line by the Royal Mail Company. It would seem that the latter undertaking is endeavouring to obtain the complete monopoly of this trade, especially for meat carrying, and for the last three months negotiations, which are now, we understand, coming to a head, have been proceding for the purchase of the Furness Withy interests in the Plate trade. Messrs. Furness have recently acquired the Houlder Line, and have also taken over the Anglo-Argentine Cargo Line of steamers, both of which are large carriers for the River Plate of frozen and chilled meat. Our readers may shortly look for the absorption of both these interests by the Royal Mail Company, who will then practically hold the monopoly. The shareholders in the Houlder Line, who have not had a dividend for ten years, will doubtless welcome the scheme, and at the present price of 25s. the shares would seem to be worth purchasing.

A Filmy Director.

Mr. Aubrey de Vere Beauclerk, of Lancaster Gate, Hyde Park, London, went bankrupt in 1891, with liabilities somewhere about £7,000, and assets insufficient to pay a dividend. Not being able to command financial success for himself, he set about contriving to do so for others by assisting in the formation of companies. In September, 1909, being still undischarged, he became a director of Electric Palaces, Limited, but, as he could not introduce capital to the Company, he resigned eighteen months later. He has now again sought shelter in the Bankruptcy Court, with liabilities £652, against his only assets, "cash, 4s. 6d." An Aubrey de Vere Beauclerk with only 4s. 6d. in the "wide"! The name alone is surely worth more? What offers?

Fuel from Chalk.

Sir Charles Buckworth Herne-Soame, Bart., "solicitor (retired)" and bankrupt (undischarged), has given Block Tar a rest, and is now puffing the shares of Edmund-Eaton's Suddine, Ltd., the object of which is to convert chalk into fuel. If, in spite of the warm weather, our readers should be requiring cheap fuel, they need not bother about obtaining it from chalk. Sir Charles' circulars will do as well—if not better. And they are very hot!

Scarisbrick Steamship Co.

There comes to us from Cardiff, *via* Finchley, a printed document giving extracts from official statements and last balance-sheet of this two-steamer shipping company. It is accompanied by a circular from Mr. H. Taylor, of 56, Fallow Court Avenue, Finchley, who states that he makes a speciality of Home Industrials to pay 10 per cent. to other people, strongly recommending a purchase of some of the £20 shares of the company at £21 10s. per share. We notice that "cash" is an item conspicuous by its absence amongst the assets in its balance-sheet as at December 17th, 1912, the only liquid asset being Sundry Debtors £2,074. As a 20 per cent. dividend is foreshadowed in Mr. Taylor's circular and as £3,840 would be required to pay it, we should like to know where it is to come from, and who the Sundry Debtors are? The absence of any cash in the coffers of this concern is vouched for by its auditors, Messrs. J. and A. W. Sully and Co., Chartered Accountants, who curtly remark, "The above account is, in our opinion, correct." The account is in our opinion, one of the most extraordinary documents ever issued by any joint-stock company, and Messrs. Sully and Co.'s Certificate is not the least extraordinary part of it.

Don't forget to take Home "Mary Bull." A £50 Prize for the Ladies is Waiting.

South Africa's New Industry.

:: Oil Within the Empire. ::

RESULT OF EMINENT EXPERT'S VISIT.

A £1 Share That May be Worth £200.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.,

Mr. J. E. MILLS-DAVIES, one of South Africa's leading geologists and mining engineers, has recently returned from an inspection of the properties in the Ceres district, Cape Province, controlled by the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Ltd., and has reported most favourably regarding the Oil prospects.

* * * * * *

The satisfactory geological character of the ground is fully described, and the following definite and important statements are made, viz:—

"The most important indication of the existence of petroleum upon "your properties is the gas which has been observed at Bailie's Gat, and "concerning which the evidence seems unquestionable. This gas has been "found along the lower edge of a wide band of shale, which outcrops several "hundred feet. It occurs just where one would expect to find gas or oil "seepages if the formation held petroleum, for the shale band may be "regarded as a cover which would prevent the escape of gas or oil below. "It is beneath this shale that a search should be made for petroleum." And in a letter since received, Mr. MILLS-DAVIES says, "There is ample "justification for investigating the problem in a systematic way."

* * * * * *

In consequence of the wholly satisfactory nature of the report, immediate steps are being taken for a borehole to be sunk under Mr. Mills Davies' personal supervision.

* * * * * *

Although, at present, the activities of the Company will be chiefly concentrated on the Ceres field, its operations will by no means be confined to that district. Negotiations are, in fact, in hand for the acquisition of certain undoubtedly rich Oil Shale properties in the Transvaal, and of reputedly petroliferous lands elsewhere, which latter are being visited and reported upon, for the Company, by an Expert of European fame.

* * * * * *

With regard to the Oil Shale properties, a very high authority, in London, who has analysed a sample of the Shale for the Company, says:—

"Destructive distillation yielded a quantity of crude oil of a light brown "colour. The amount worked out to 62¾ gallons per ton of Shale, and from "the appearance of the oil, I judge it to be rich in paraffin wax. The "sample is the most promising of any I have recently examined."

* * * * * *

The capital of the Company is £250,000, including £50,000 working capital.

* * * * * *

The Company is a parent undertaking, its policy being to dispose of Oil rights, over given areas, to subsidiary Companies, retaining a substantial interest in them.

* * * * * *

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority its £1 shares may easily attain the value of £200 from its Oil rights alone.

* * * * * *

Investors and others interested will be supplied with full particulars on application.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.
80, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—H. T. D. (Shanghai).—We have frequently expressed our candid opinion that the shares of this undertaking possess great potentialities and constitute the best speculative purchase in the market.

INVESTMENT REGISTRY.—DUBIOUS.—Mr. Hayes Fisher, M.P., is the new chief. No, we do *not* recommend a purchase.

OBSCURE CONCERN.—W. T. (Clapham).—We strongly advise you not to put any money into this concern, in return for a billet. If the people are square and aboveboard, they should be quite satisfied with the guarantee of a Fidelity Society. Your remark about the different names under which the concern is known does not prejudice us in its favour.

BRIT. CONSOL. OIL CO.—G. H. (South Wimbledon).—We cannot trace any connection between this Company, which, by the way, is in liquidation, with the American-owned concern mentioned. In any case, the shares appear to be valueless.

RUBBER SYNDICATE.—C. H. G. (Maidstone).—The High-Pressure Cellular Rubber Syndicate, Ltd., of 28, Pall Mall, London, S.W., is quite an unimportant concern. There is no market value for the shares.

THREE MINES.—F. G. G. W. G. (Wood Green).—(1) Hold Frank Smith Diamonds, which are on the point of entering upon production. (2) Harmony Pròps. are also reviving, in view of the proclamation of several of the Company's farms as public diggings, and these shares should be kept. (3) We are less confident as regards the Mexican Mine in question, but having bought at 1s. apiece, you do not run much risk in keeping the shares.

UNITED REALISATION.—T. G. B. (Harringay).—There is very little information available regarding this concern, except that the repayment of the Deferred interest warrants has been postponed until December 31st, 1913, and that no dividend can be paid on the shares until all the Mortgage and Debenture debt has been paid off, which looks like being some time in the Greek Kalends. No quotation is available for the shares.

VARIOUS HOLDINGS.—J. R. D. (Edinburgh).—The best of your holdings are Buenos Ayres and Pacific Debentures in the first place, and British Empire Trust Preference as the second string. R. and R. Clark is a local Edinburgh concern, and you should therefore be able to find out about this locally. The Ordinary dividends are not even made public here, but the Preference dividend is paid regularly. The Investors' Mortgage Security is another of your local companies, which is doing well, and whose Preference stock appears to be a good holding amongst Companies of this kind.

LOCAL CONCERNS.—S. B. (Manchester).—We think there are much better investments to be made than either of those mentioned. The Manchester Ship Canal is as far off as ever from paying a dividend.

BATAVIA PLANTATIONS.—RUBBER INVESTOR.—A promising purchase amongst the younger producers, but you must be prepared to meet fluctuations until the rubber market generally has righted itself. Dividend for 1912, 15 per cent., of which half was paid last year, and the other half is now payable.

GOLD MINES.—J. L. (Sunderland).—Your holding of shares is of a mixed character. The best amongst them are Amalgamated Props., while Chicago Gaika and New Rhodesia might eventually come right. The outlook for Simmer Deep and Selukwe is, to say the least of it, doubtful; but they would probably also improve if the market generally went better.

CANADIAN AND INVESTMENTS, ETC.—C. H. F. (Liverpool).—You should be aware by now that we do not hold a very high opinion of such second and third-rate Canadian and American investments as Nos. 1 and 2. The American Railroad Bonds (No. 3) are a good investment of their kind, but they cannot be said to be readily marketable. The last-mentioned shares are also a second-rate holding; and, upon the whole, we think you can make investments to better advantage in, say, Home Rails and sound Industrials, where the yield is not so big, but which offer good possibilities of capital appreciation, and are more readily marketable.

OIL CO.—A. Y. (Edinburgh).—We certainly do not recommend investment in the Sakavala Madagasca Oil Fields.

SAKHALIN OIL.—HOMES.—You will be well-advised not to put any money into this concern.

COAL AND INDUSTRIALS.—J. S. (Keighley).—There seems to be no reason for selling either of the shares, but the speculative nature renders it necessary for you to keep an eye upon them.

ADDRESSES OF FIRMS.—S. M. I. (Cambridge).—You might place yourself in communication with Messrs. Gow, Wilson and Stanton, Ltd., Harrisons and Crosfields, Ltd., and Messrs. Lewis and Peat, of Mincing Lane; or with the London Produce Clearing House, Ltd., and S. Figgis and Co., of Bishopsgate Street, London, E.C., any of whom will, no doubt, put you on the right track.

GILT-EDGED INVESTMENTS.—CONSOLS.—War scares, competition of new issues, etc., have all played their part in the deterioration of existing gilt-edged securities. The capital is, of course, safe enough; but on any further distinct improvement we should advise you to take the opportunity of exchanging into some of the newer issues, which offer increased yields.

£1,300 INVESTMENT.—CARLISLE.—Your idea is certainly a good one, and we place the securities mentioned in the following order of merit:—Nos. 2, 1, 5, 3, 4, and 6. As regards No. 4, why not substitute Rhodesia Railways 5 per cent. first mortgage debentures at 103, or Mashonaland Guaranteed 5 per cent. mortgage debentures at 105.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE.—G. E. F. (Liverpool).—You are entitled to a good deal of sympathy. Entering the service of the Company as a boy of 14, you remained with them until the age of 49, when, for the technical reason, you inform us, of borrowing £20 on your Life Policy of £200, you were dismissed, and now you are an inmate of the workhouse. You have endeavoured, you say, to obtain justice, but up to the present you have not succeeded in influencing those at the head of affairs. We do not know in what manner we can serve you, except by inviting the directors of this large and influential institution to investigate your case.

MUTUAL PROPERTY INVESTMENT CO.—ENQUIRER.—We have frequently refered to this Company, and have already pointed out that, so far as we are aware, the directors have not complied with the Life Assurance Companies Act of 1909 by depositing £20,000 with the High Court of Justice for the special protection of policy holders.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—EDNA.—You inform us that you are an old policy holder, having contributed for "Death Benefit" for a period of sixteen years, paying a premium of 1s. 7½d. weekly. On December 8th you applied for a policy on the life of your child, and received the policy dated December 23rd. Your child unfortunately died on March 21st last, being two days short of the period entitling you to claim. The agent informed you that the two days would not make any difference, having regard to your long connection with the Company. Subsequently he called and offered 15s. instead of 30s., which a three months duration of the policy would have entitled you to receive. You expressed your disappointment and intimated that unless the additional 15s. was paid you would sever your connection with the Company altogether. You have not sent us the policy, but we should imagine the Conditions provide that the benefits only accrue from the date of issuing the policy and not from the date of making the proposal. If we are correct in our interpretation of the position, you must be satisfied with the "grant" of 15s., as you cannot claim more.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA LEGAL FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—MRS. L. A. (Southwark).—You say that during the process of revival of policies the assured died, and that on presenting the claim it was refused. Your complaint is that the agent kept the revivals in hand too long. If you are able to prove that the revivals were not put through owing to his negligence, you may have a good cause for action, but everything depends upon the rules and methods observed by the Society in connection with revivals, and in order to succeed these features would have to be carefully considered and indisputable evidence produced to prove negligence on the part of the Society's agent.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.—A. B. C. (Hereford).—The attempt to deprive old members of "Medical Aid" benefit, for which they have been contributing for many years, is paltry in the extreme. The explanation you give is that a Superintendent accompanied the agent and that he stated to the policy holders that all the doctors refused to serve the Company, but that, as a favour, the policy holder could be transferred to the Life Branch and transferred back again to the Medical Aid section in the event of the doctors eventually agreeing to serve. You say that the Life Table was represented as being a "concession" to old members, whilst, at the same time, the Company were offering similar benefits to new policy holders under Table 1, Whole Life Assurance. The assertions you make are serious, and, if they can be proved, the position in which the Company is placed is far from being an enviable one. We may mention that policy holders have written to us complaining of the action of the Company in endeavouring to get rid of their liability for "Medical Aid" benefit.——X. Y. Z.—We consider the Company are treating you badly in not acknowledging receipt of your remittances which cover "Medical Aid" benefit under the terms of the policy you hold. You properly refuse to be deprived of this benefit for which you have contributed so long, and you had better write them to let you know definitely whether they intend to provide the "Medical Aid" benefit.——B. W. (Pembroke Dock).—You effected an assurance on the life of your father in 1907. He is not aware of the assurance and you ask whether it is legal. Yes, provided at the time the policy was applied for you had a bona fide expectation that you would incur expense in connection with his death or funeral. We have frequently expressed disapproval of the issue of policies on the lives of relatives without the knowledge of the assured.

LONDON, EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW ASSURANCE.—D. C. S. (Glasgow).—We do not suppose the Company would accept any responsibility for the book you bought, and which you held for a period of six months, ultimately relinquishing it, and being unable to find a purchaser, losing your money. We fear you have no legal redress, and an appeal to the shareholders of the Pearl Life Assurance Company would not assist you. The only course open to you is to again notify the Managing Directors of the "Pearl" of your grievance and ascertain if they can suggest any method of satisfying you.

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

Starts this week—Our Second Great Cricket Contest. See page 715.

Safety Blades Resharpened

By the NEW ELECTRICAL "JOHNSON" PROCESS.
All kinds of Safety Razor Blades re-sharpened at 1/- per dozen and made Better than New. You save 75% on your blade bill. Take them to your cutler or ironmonger, or send direct with P.O. to
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"Nassau C"

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Write to Cluett, Peabody & Co., Inc., 12 New Union Street, London, E.C., for free Style Book. Every hosier can obtain Arrow Collars for you at the fixed price of 7d. each, 2 for 1/-. Should yours decline to do so we will have them sent direct by post.

Each of the following have already won £500 from us:—

C. J. GOULTER, 1, St. George's Road, Kingston Hill.
W. HARGRAVE, Royal Marine Infirmary, Deal.
J. J. RICHARDS, 9, Shannon Grove, Brixton, S.W.
A. B. WYATT, 3, Falmer Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
W. H. BLACKSHAW, The Lea, Denham, Bucks.
H. COLCHIN Junr., Woolpack Inn, Iwade, Kent.
F. SMITH, 241, High Street, Porth, Glam.
T. PHILLIPS, 34, The Park, Treharris.
W. H. COWDERY, Foresters Arms, Coxgreen, Maidenhead.
B. AINLEY, 10, Hamilton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE ALREADY WON £100 FROM US:—

J. J. STEPHENSON, 42, Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees.
J. PARRISH, 165, North Road, Clayton, Manchester.
J. DIXON, 149, Albert Street, Millom, Cumberland.
C. E. PAGE, 1, Royal Villas, Maxton, Dover.
H. HACK, 30, Little Earl Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, London.
A. THOMPSON, 29, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, London.
MRS. OLIVER, 22, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.
BOMBARDIER COAKLEY, R.G.A., The Castle, Dover.
A. KERR, Sheephead Inn, Duddingston, Scotland.
M. BROWN, 68, Corporation Road, Workington.

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE ALREADY WON £50 FROM US:—

L. NEALE, 4, Brainerd Street, Green Lane, Liverpool.
A. ELLIOTT, 139, Portman Buildings, Lisson Grove, London, N.W.
H. POWELL, 1, Reubens Place, New Denham, Uxbridge.
G. GREEN, 10, Church Street, Madeley, Salop.
B. HANCOCK, Westcombe House, Bideford, Devon.
G. SPENCER, Criterion Bar, St. Andrews, N.B.
W. TREMLETT, Whiteley's Depot, Hillingdon Heath, Uxbridge.
J. CHARNOCK, 10, Norman Road, Seacombe, Liverpool.
G. BOWNAS, Temperance Hotel, Grassington, Yorks.

The Editor of "John Bull" on February 1st stated:—
"We have many times expressed satisfaction with Mr. H. Diamond's methods, and can assure our readers that from beginning to end each sweep promoted by him is absolutely straight, square and aboveboard."

Mr. W. Lotinga, editor of "Lotinga's Weekly," and well known for many years, until recently, as Magpie of "The Globe," and as "Larry Lynx" said Oct. 12:—
"I can assure everyone most emphatically as to the genuineness and straightforwardness of H. Diamond's sweeps."

H. DIAMOND, Lucerne, Switzerland.

Letter Postage, 2½d. Postcards, 1d.

"BULLETS" BRING MOST PRIZES!

SPECIAL "CONTINUOUS MERIT" PRIZES.

As a special reward for continuous merit we make this week a unique offer. To all competitors who have won EIGHT or more "Bullet" Prizes, since and including "Bullets" Competition No. 18, we will pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS. All you have to do is to claim the prize, but the eight prizes must all have been awarded to one and the same person. After verification the cash will be at once forwarded. All prizes won, cash and otherwise, are eligible for this special offer. This is a distinct and additional prize offer, which in no way affects competitors' chances of receiving the £500 or any other of our weekly prizes.

FIRST PRIZE **£500** **FIRST PRIZE**

£75 SECOND PRIZE. **£25 THIRD PRIZE.**

10 Prizes of £2 10s.
10 " " £1
20 " " 10/-

TOTAL PRIZES VALUE **£1,895**

500 Prizes of 5/-

5,000 OTHER PRIZES VALUE OVER £1,100.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

ALWAYS IN MISCHIEF
RIVER TRIPS
PRETTY TYPIST
INTOXICATED
A WARM EVENING
ENGAGEMENT RING
HAVE ANOTHER
SUCH IS LIFE
DUTCH COURAGE
ANCIENT LIGHTS
AFTER THE RACES
FREE SAMPLE
THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER
STOLEN SWEETS
OFFICIAL RECEIVER
BULLS AND BEARS
CAUGHT NAPPING
NO CLASS
ROOT OF EVIL
EXPENSIVE HOBBY
GOING STRONG
SECOND FIDDLE
TAILORS' BILLS
TAKING A RISK
WHAT OFFERS
SECOND THOUGHTS
FANCY PRICES
A STANDING EVIL
FAMILY AFFAIR
FALLEN STAR
GREAT TEMPTATION
A PARTING SHOT
MY FAMILY
SOVEREIGN POWER
TRYING TIME
GUILTY CONSCIENCE
AGONY COLUMN
TURNING THE TABLES
BROKEN RESOLUTIONS
IMPOSING ESTABLISHMENT

IMPORTANT.

Every "Bullets" coupon received is slowly and carefully judged by TWO different Members of our Special Staff of Adjudicators, all of whom are journalists of the highest ability, specially qualified to undertake such work. Thus, every coupon is judged twice, and the possibility of a "Bullet" displaying merit being overlooked is eliminated.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "A WARM EVENING" and take the letters, "W" and "I," using the word "Summer" as the middle word, you can make the Bullet, "INDICATES SUMMER WEATHER." Or from the example, "TAILORS' BILLS," the Bullet "ACCUMULATE RAPIDLY" can be formed. Again, if you take the example, "FANCY PRICES," using the letter "F" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "FOR LADIES' FASHIONS."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Closing date, Wednesday, May 21st.

Example _____
Bullet _____

Example _____
Bullet _____

(33) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 723, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed _____
Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated May 24th.

Closing date, Wednesday May 21st.

Example _____
Bullet _____

Example _____
Bullet _____

(33) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 723, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____
Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 33," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

Competitors can see The "Bullets" Judges at work any time by appointment.

RESULT OF 30TH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

Mr. W. H. WATKINS,
8, Hermose Road,
Teignmouth, Devon.

Example.—ROAD TO RUIN.
Bullet.—OFTEN "LOAN" ONE.

SECOND PRIZE OF £75:—

Mr. TOM SIMPSON,
23, Kliffen Place, Halifax.

Example.—MUM'S THE WORD.
Bullet.—MET VICAR OSTEND.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25:—

Mr. C. G. WILLIAMS,
73, South End Road,
Hampstead, London, N.W.

Example.—SOCIETY MARRIAGES.
Bullet.—"STAR" AND "GARTER."

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. to:

Mr. J. L. BROWN, 1, Alfred Street South, Carlisle:
ROAD TO RUIN—OPPOSITE PARTY'S DOCTRINES.
Mr. F. LEGRAND, 47, Moreton Terrace, Pimlico, S.W.:
CAPITAL IDEA—LEARN THEN EARN.
Mr. H. CURRIE, 15, Harris Street, Middlesbrough:
OFTEN CAUSES STRIFE—FATHER STUDYING "FORM."
Mr. W. A. GREIG, 47, Esslemont Avenue, Aberdeen, N.B.:
SOCIETY MARRIAGES—THE "HIGH TIED."
Mr. J. CAMPBELL, The Cottage, Gracemount, Liberton, Midlothian:
MUM'S THE WORD—WHEN EMIGRANT RETURNS.
Mr. F. B. FORSTER, 40, Kent Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne:
EVERY WIFE WANTS—NOT "CUSSING"—FUSSING.
Mr. W. COX, 153, Leighton Road, Kentish Town, N.W.:
NARROW ESCAPE—SENTRY SWALLOWED "WOODBINE."
Mr. S. GREEN, 22, Station Street, Spalding, Lincs.:
SIMPLE LIFE—SECRET—ANCESTOR'S LONGEVITY.
Mr. J. E. STURGESS, "Belle Vue," Knockholt, Kent:
WHEN IN DOUBT—"BOBBIES" COMPARE NOTES.
Mrs. M. EDWARDS, 3, Gordon Terrace, Bangor, North Wales:
SILKS AND SATINS—AGED HUSBAND SUPPLIES.

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

BRUCE, A., 30, St. Bride's Road, Egremont.
DEWHURST, D. C., 11, Garbelt Street, Accrington.
JONES, C. H., 10, Arlington Road, West Ealing.
LAYBOURNE, J. H., 23, Chester Road, Watford.
PECKETT, W. H., 3, Edmund Road, Saltley, Birmingham.
ROBBINS, E. A., 208, Cheltenham Road, Bristol.
SMITH, T. E., 50, Sandringham Road, Cardiff.
STRUTT, W., 7, Langdon Road, Bromley.
TEASDALE, W. G., 109, Leonard Road, Handsworth, B'ham.
WILLIAMS, ALICE M., School House, Bardwell Road, Oxford.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

ALLAN, G. B., Half Way House, 1, George Street, Leith, N.B.
BASSHAM, W. W., 60, Didsbury Road, Stockport.
BOURNE, E., 44, Kathleen Road, Hay Mill, Birmingham.
BURFITT, Mrs. G., 34, Hyde Street, Winchester, Hants.
COLLIER, I., Lockwood, Peterston, Cardiff.
FLEMING, A. C., 73 or 93, Chatsworth Ave:, Aintree, Liverpool.
GRIGG, W. H., Fulham Town Hall, S.W.
JOHNS, S. B., 21, West Hoe Road, Plymouth.
JONES, F. M., 17, Waldegrave Road, Ealing, W.
LASS, E. D., 369-371, Brixton Road, S.W.
MERCER, A., 286, Cleethorpes Road, Grimsby.
NICHOLS, O. S., 16, Park Road, Rugby.
ORSON, A., 2, Southsea Terrace, Baker Street, Small Heath, Birmingham.
PERRY, J. W., 39, Sedgemere Avenue, East Finchley, N.
POOLE, G., 72, Devon Road, Barking, E.
SAVAGE, G. T., 119, Church Street, Lozells, Birmingham.
SCOTT, A. H., 45, Headland Park, Plymouth.
SHAUL, Mrs. E. M., 12, Briton Road, Faversham, Kent.
SPANN, Mrs. L. M., 37, Wilmslow Road, Didsbury.
WILLMOTT, T. H., 2, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, W.

"CONTINUOUS MERIT" PRIZES.

In accordance with our offer on page 722 the following "Continuous Merit" prizes of £2 : 2 : 0 each have already been awarded.

BROOME, H. S., 21, Cavour St., Penton Place, London, S.E.
BULL, A. A., Middlemarch, Hinckley Road, Nuneaton.
DRON, C. M., Sutherland House, Surbiton, S.W.
JENKINS, L., 14, Argyle Road, West Ealing, W.
PLATT, E. H., 4, Caroline Place, Hastings.
ROBINSON, F., Mersey Buildings, 18, James Street, Liverpool.
RUTHERFORD, S., 23, Perth Road, Dundee, Scotland.
SMITH, C., Mrs., 31, Eton Road, Ilford, Essex.
TAYLOR, G. V., 29, Vernham Road, Plumstead, S.E.
TOWNING, H. J., Stationmaster, L. & S.W.R., Bow, Devon.

SELECTION FROM LIST OF 500 PRIZE WINNERS OF 5s. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 30.

A Selection from the List of 5,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mary Bull," dated May 31st.

Abbott, V. H., 4, Holywell-lane, E.C.
Ainch, R. B. T., 15, Chancelot-ter., Edinburgh.
Akeroyd, A. C., 53, Market-st., Bradford.
Alder, F. R., 85, Finch-rd., Handsworth.
Aldersey, J., 12, Princess-st., Carlisle.
Anderson, D., The Anchorage, Mount Vernon, Glasgow.
Anthony, R. E., 90, Torriano-av., N.W.
Anthony, E., 4, Elm-rd., Hereford.
Anthony, R. S., 18, Bedford-rd., Crouch End, N.
Arrowsmith, R., 35, Warner-rd., Hornsey, N.
Atterton, F., 1, Greenwood Mount, Leeds.
Ball, H. P. H., Rustington, Sussex.
Ball, A. T., 123, Rookery-rd., Handsworth.
Bambridge, Mabel, 44, Church-st., Brighton.
Barnes, Dr. A., 1, Charlemont-st., Dublin.
Barnes, H. S., 8, Kingsway, Goole.
Barrett, Mrs. L., 11, Vicarage-rd., Neasden, N.W.
Barrett, A. E., Fairholme, Church-st., Sheringham.
Bartlett, A. E., Edwarden, St. David's Hill, Exeter.
Batey, Mrs. J. F., Hazelbeach, nr. Northampton.
Bates, R., 115, Dean-st., Ashton-u-Lyne.
Beach, T. W., Shanklin, Underdown-rd., Southwick.
Beal, Miss J., 8, Bugle-st., Southampton.
Beckett, J. F., 54, Heywood-st., Cheetham Hill-rd., Manchester.
Beecham, Miss L., 7, Colinton-st., Wavertree, Liverpool.
Bemrose, Mrs. C., Derwent House, Milford, Derby.
Berry, Mrs. R. G., 22, Lawrence-rd., Chorley.
Bezzant, J. W., 15, Islington-st., Swindon.
Bickell, A. W., Birnbeck Cottage, Weston-super-Mare.
Bishop, J. S., 1, Shadwell Mansions, High-street, Shadwell.
Blackshaw, F., 134, Gravelly Hill, N. Birmingham.
Blades, S., 148, Goldhawk-rd., W.
Blunt, W. E., 8, Weltje-rd., Hammersmith, W.
Boagey, C., 19, Edendale-ter., Gateshead.
Bocking, M. A. F., 47, Shrewsbury-rd., Forest Gate, E.
Bodkin, L. F., 50, Carlton-ter., Rathmines.
Bosher, J. F., 96, Fitzalan-st., S.E.
Booker, Mrs. W., 12, The Grove, Woking.
Bowman, G., The Craggs, Victoria-ter., Dunfermline.
Bramhall, D., 8, Newborough-av., Sefton Park, Liverpool.
Bramwell, J. N., Roby-rd., Roby, L'pool.
Brennan, J., 22, Acorn-st., York-rd., Leeds.
Bridgman, A. S. J., 12, Thornhill-rd., Brighouse.
Brierley, W. F., 19a, Sutherland-pl., Bayswater, W.
Brock, G., 21, Wardlaw-st., Edinburgh.
Brown, S., 53, Princes rd., Middlesbro'.
Brown, J. W., 9, Clarence-rd., Kew Gardens.
Brown, W. H., 18, Brisbane-av., Merton Park.
Brown, J., 31, Gordan-rd., Cardiff.
Bryant, J. H., 71, Eastern-rd., Romford.
Buck, F. G., Lancaster House, Cliftonville.
Bull, H. G., 48, Topsfield Parade, Crouch End, N.
Bullard, H. J., 112, The Grove, Wandsworth.
Burge, F. W. A., 12, Church-st., St. Martins, Stamford.
Cairns, L., 2, Hamilton-st., Partick, Glasgow.
Calder, Dr., Torridon, Ross-shire.
Calvert, G., 100, Evering-rd., N.
Carter, W., 35, Backhouse-st., Darlington.
Cattermole, B. O., 19, Cambridge-rd., Seven Kings.
Cheshire, S. T., Vicar-st., Kidderminster.
Clarke, B. H., 321, Psalter-lane, Sheffield.
Claxton, Florence, 6, Tower-st., King's Lynn.
Clayton, H., 33, Chaylesmore, Coventry.
Cole, A., 66, Moundfield-rd., Stamford Hill, N.
Coleman, J. W., 8, Harvard-rd., Lewisham.
Coleman, A. T., 24, Mill-rd., Bury St. Edmunds.
Collins, H., 17, Embankment-rd., Plymouth.
Collyer, T. L., 94, Fircroft-rd., Upper Tooting, S.W.
Compton, G. R., 422, High-rd., Leyton.
Conway, Mrs. H., 85, Ellerton-rd., Sheffield.
Cooper, I. M., 99, Queensboro' Gardens, Glasgow.
Cooper, W. J. Kenwood-av., Sharrow, Sheffield.
Corbitt, C. E., 79, Park-rd., St. Annes-on-Sea.
Coutts, W. H., Staff, King-Edward's-bldg., G.P.O., E.C.
Cowdrey, C., Holmleigh, Oxted.
Cowell, T. E., 99, Park-st., Greenheys, Manchester.
Crowe, G., Braeport, Dunblane, N.B.
Crowe, E., 25, Sarsfield-st., Limerick.
Crumblehulme, J. B., 32, Merlin-grove, Bolton.
Cummins, E., 14, Middle-st., Shaldon, Teignmouth.
Cunningham, S. B., 85, Grange-rd., Bermondsey, S.E.
Cusens, G. C., 101, Hubert-grove, Stockwell, S.W.
Dackham, J., 138, Quinn-bldgs., Waterloo-rd., S.E.
Dales, H. L., Medomsley, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Davidson, J., Barevan, Cawdor, Nairn.
Day, F., 7, Adolphus-rd., Finsbury Park, N.
Delves, F. A., 53, Beauvale-rd., Nottingham.
Dibb, J., 24, Chestnut-grove, Harrogate.
Dimbleby, C. A., 186, Churchill-rd., Willesden Green, N.W.
Dix, H. B., 36, Bassaleg-rd., Newport, Mon.
Dodds, H. J., 22, Barkley-rd., Gravesend.
Dodgson, J. T., 13, Ivy-ter., Langley Park, Durham.
Dominic, G., 105, Mansfield-rd., Nottingham.
Dowding, H. M., Lynton, Frome-rd., Trowbridge.
Doyle, J. N., Main-st., Lochgelly, Fife.
Draper, W. A., 27, Redearth-st., Darwen.
Duckitt, S., 31, The Crescent, Salford.
Duckworth, H. C., Glendower, Hampton Hill.
Eagles, L., 21, Empress-rd., Liverpool.
Ede, S. J. H., Mona Villa, Long-lane, Halesowen.
Edmonds, D. J., 4, Dew-st., Haverfordwest.
Elder, Christina A., 60, West Smeaton-st., Kirkcaldy.
Ellis, W., 30, Churton-st., Pimlico, S.W.
Eustace, G. F., 83, West End-rd., Southall.
Everson, J., 118, Dartford-rd., Dartford.
Fairley, R., K.R.R.C., Cpl., Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich, S.E.
Fairlough, W., 6, Garth-ter., Bangor.
Falconer, T., Junr., 64, Mar-st., Alloa.
Farran, J., 8, Ash-st., Bastwell, Blackburn.
Ferriday, A. J., 76, Victoria-rd., New Brighton.
Finlay, J. G., 18, London-rd., Kilmarnock.
Fitzgerald, Mrs., 292, Langside-rd., Glasg.
Forster, Miss F., 49, Thompson-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.
Forward, F. J., 26, Dunedin-rd., Leyton.
Freeland, J. E., at Eldon House, Huyton, Liverpool.
Freney, M. J., 4, Belvedere-court, Up. Gardiner-st., Dublin.
Garrick, W., 31, Causton-st., Westminster.
Gibbins, F., 17, Percival-st., Longsight, Manchester.
Gill, J. B., Templand Lhanbryde, Morayshire.
Gill, F. G., Park View, Maldon-rd., Witham.
Gillison, Mrs. L. W., Bloomfield-rd., Darlington.
Glassey, C. H., 63, Woodland-rd., Handsworth.
Godfrey, G., 16, Bronze-st., Manchester
Goff, Mrs. J., Hartshill Cott., Hartshill.
Goldberg, H. R., 1, Roseneath-ter., Edin.
Goodyear, G., 9, Ashburnham-rd., Bedford.
Gough, J., Red Hill, Stourbridge.
Graham, Mrs. C., Deneholm, Lenzie, Glasg.
Gray, Mrs., 40, Durham-st., Bishop Auckland.
Gray, A. C., 25, Tennyson-av., East Ham.
Greig, T., 76, High-st., Falkirk.
Griscombe, W., 12a, Drayton-rd., Harlesden, N.W.
Gyles, J. H., 27, Redstone-rd., Hornsey, N.
Hadfield, R. H., 121, Nicholas-rd., Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.
Hall, J. B., 11, Croft-ter., Jarrow-on-Tyne.
Hamilton, R. A. W., c/o Messrs. Workman, Clark and Co., Shipbuilders, Belfast.
Handford, E., 177, Middle-st., Deal.
Hannah, W., 6, Wallace-st., Dumfries.
Harding, E., Woodhurst, St. Barnabas-rd., Sutton.
Hardman, C. W., 38, Kelso-rd., Fairfield, Liverpool.
Harman, H., 40, Priory-st., Hastings.
Harper, Miss E., 177, Downham-rd., Islington, N.
Harper, Mrs., P.O., Sandhurst, Berks.
Harris, G., 98, Park-st., Grimsby.
Hartness, Mrs. M., 13, Lydford-rd., Cricklewood, N.W.
Hatch, J., 29, Malmesbury-rd., Bow, E
Hatcher, R., 9, Sussex-rd., Sidcup.
Hegarty, Helen, 724, Govan-rd., Govan.
Henderson, A. E., 16, Primrose Mansions, Battersea Park, S.W.
Henderson, T., 18, Gayfield-sq., Edinburgh.
Henry, A. H., 1, Trentham-av., Wavertree, Liverpool.
Healop, J., 1, Aynsley-ter., Consett.
Hewitt, B., 20, Fir-st., Dudley.
Hicks, Miss E., 15, Morcton-ter., Pimlico.
Higginson, J., 117, East Parade, Harrogate.
Hill, J. A., 66, Hilderthorpe-rd., Bridlington.
Hilyer, Mary, 6, Pembroke-st., Gloucester.
Hodder, A. L., Queen's Cafe, Weston-s-Mare.
Hodgkins, Mrs. R. A., 27, Dore-av., Dersingham-av., Manor Park, E.
Hollingworth, W. H., 39, Birkin-av., Nottingham.
Holloway, F. H., 1 or 7, Cobden-pl., York-rd., Uxbridge.
Holt, R. C., 54, Croysland-rd., Chalk Farm, N.W.
Hooker, Mrs., King Edward VII. Sanatorium, Midhurst.
Hookins, A., 16, Gordon-ter., Rochester.
Hornby, G., 42, Coram-st., W.C.
Howard, Mrs. E. M., 8, Chelmsford-rd., Old Southgate, N.
Hume, A., 8, Marsden-gdns., Belfast.
Hunter, L., 52, Bright-st., Roker, Sunderland.
Illingworth, J. W., 72, Everton-rd., Sheffield.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*)

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 722, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning on Wednesday, May 21st.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff: but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

Complete List of all Prize-Winners can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

The big race set for this week is the Manchester Cup which will take place on Friday, and for which we must give

LORENZO

just one more chance. Emerald Ring should also run well.

On Wednesday, TOM FIRR may just be good enough to take the Whitsuntide Plate. SUSAN should win the Trial Handicap, and SVETIC the Castle Irwell Handicap.

On Thursday, MILTSIN can win the Broughton Welter, whilst the John o' Gaunt Plate should be won by

BALIYOUKAN.

A Two Mile Handicap looks made for WINTHORPE, as does the Beaufort Handicap for WHIMSEY. CABARET looks a likely proposition in the Brackley Handicap, as does THISTLETON in the Pendleton Plate.

PRESTER JACK.

must very nearly win the Salford Borough Handicap, whilst PICTORIAL should be supported for the Lytham Two-Year-Old Stakes.

There is racing at Lingfield also on Friday and Saturday, and here the best thing on the first day looks to be PITMASTON for a High Class Selling Handicap. On the Saturday, STUNG AGAIN will win the Imperial Handicap, but only in the probable absence of TASLETT. The Ford Manor Handicap gives ST. CRONAN another chance.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.—W. R. (Huddersfield).—It does not matter whose names are on the counterfoils provided you send the whole nine to Geneva together, accompanied by remittance for £1. You would, of course, fill in your own name on the free ticket.—A. H. (Ontario).—See reply last week to Winnipeg readers.

UNIVERSAL TURF SOCIETY, LUCERNE.—H. F. (Mayfair).—This is vouched for by the *London Mail*, and we believe its Derby Sweepstake will be conducted on perfectly straightforward lines.—R. S. (Weymouth), AND OTHERS.—Quite genuine. Mr. Awbery's is a subscription sweep, and no particular sum is guaranteed.—W. P. M. (Glasgow) AND OTHERS.—We believe this Sweep is conducted in a straightforward manner.

SWEEPSTAKE (RICARDO, Glasgow).—All the firms you mention are genuine, but we should prefer the first to the last.

STANLEY WEBB (Copenhagen).—MICK, C. L. G. M., and F. J. (Maidenhead).—We strongly advise you to have nothing to do with this sweep.

BERT FRY (Birsfelden).—GENUINE.—We have no reason to doubt the genuineness of the advertisement to which you call our attention, but have no personal knowledge of the business.

"£5,000 DERBY SWEEP."—L. T. (London).—What is described as a "£5,000 Derby Sweep" promoted by "Macdonald and Barnes," of Langnau, Switzerland, is really a swindle by a Dutchman of the name of de Paauw, whom we exposed about a year ago under the heading of "Dirty Derby Diddlers," and the man apparently also runs the "Albion Bank," Basle, and *Sporting Profit*, two concerns with which we have strongly advised our readers to have nothing to do.

WHITE, FISHER AND CO. (Geneva).—L. A. W. (Bradford).—Genuine concern.

SWEEPSTAKES.—CLOCKS (Manchester).—We have no hesitation in advising you to take further JOHN BULL Derby Sweep tickets in preference to the other one you mention, the difference being that in the case of the former the prizes are guaranteed, and, as a matter of fact, have been increased to £15,000.

LEONARD LANE (Hereford).—SPECULATOR (Cardiff).—We have satisfactory references in regard to this Turf Accountant. As far as we can ascertain, he is perfectly respectable.

BOUVERET TURF CLUB.—J. B. (Clovelly) AND OTHERS.—We note that these people advertise a £100,000 Derby Sweep, the first prize of 24 per cent., which they estimate is equal to £24,000, to go to the winner. Judging by the result of their so-called £100,000 Grand National Sweep, the total subscription for which amounted to £16,000 only, subscribers will probably be disillusioned when they receive the result of the draw.——E. H. (Forest Gate).—We have already intimated we do not like the lines upon which this "Club" runs its Sweeps. There is no guaranteed prize money of any kind.

H. DIAMOND (Lucerne).—COLDSTREAM.—We do not think Mr. Diamond can in any way be blamed for your not having received the result of the draw.——H. M. (Manchester).—We think you will agree that Mr. Diamond has behaved in a very sportsmanlike manner.

DOUGLAS STUART.—VICTOR.—Of course, "Duggie" is perfectly straight.

TURF POOL SYNDICATE (Geneva).—H. C. N. (East Croydon).—From enquiries we have made we believe this Sweep is being conducted on straightforward lines, and that although a subscription and not a Guaranteed Sweep the prizes will be substantial.

TOTALISATOR (Lucerne).—F. B. (Norwich).—Our special representative will attend the draws of both the 10s. and the 5s. sweeps on the 28th inst. at Lucerne. The firm's reputation for straightforward and honourable dealing will ensure that everything will be carried out in a thoroughly genuine manner.

"Gale's Special"

The "SPECIAL" that Guarantees Your Success.

A reputation for definite and reliable intelligence combined with straightforward and honourable business transactions, and a desire to impart to each one of our subscribers the best news it is possible to secure with the honest purpose of maintaining that reputation, and thus retaining the continued support and kind recommendation of our subscribers, is one of our greatest assets to-day.

Next Monday's issue of "Gale's Special," published at 2/6, will be sent post free in plain sealed envelope upon receipt of 1/- P.O. or Stamps to all readers of "John Bull" enclosing this paragraph.

Gale's Primus Wire

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SERVICE EVER INAUGURATED.

During the past Winter Season the **EDITOR OF "GALE'S SPECIAL,"** in conversing with one or two of the largest commissioners in the country, made special arrangements for exclusive information respecting these S. P. Commissions, and a few days prior to the commencement of the Flat-Racing Season communicated with the majority of the subscribers to **"GALE'S SPECIAL,"** intimating that he was introducing a new series of telegrams which he had decided to call

GALE'S PRIMUS WIRE,

and the first message sent out was on Easter Wednesday, March 26th, when our subscribers received **PERSUADE** (10-1) Won.

Since that time up to Tuesday, May 6th, inclusive, we have sent out **FIVE SELECTIONS** on these Primus Wires, **ALL OF WHICH HAVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL,** the complete list being **CARRIGRUE, MASTER MACDONALD, OCYDROME, AMBASSADOR, ARRIET,** and **PERSUADE.**

Six Selections and —Six Winners.—

More than 46 Points Clear Profit.

Never more than One Selection per week.

Never more than One Horse wired.

The Most Successful Service Inaugurated.

It may be again mentioned that we definitely promised that in the event of failure we would send a free **TATTERSALL'S RING WIRE** to all who subscribed for the **PRIMUS WIRE,** but up to the present we have not been called upon to send out any Compensatory Messages, owing to the soundness of this special and exclusive intelligence, as each selection sent out on the **PRIMUS WIRES,** six in all, has proved successful.

The charge for this Special "Gale's Primus Wire" is **TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS PER MESSAGE.** The information sent out by the Editor on these special messages is obtained from a source that is quite unavailable to the ordinary Racing Adviser, and in no circumstances whatever is more than one selection ever mentioned on this message. It amounts to this, **one selection only — the best selection that money, brains, and influence, can procure.**

The next selection on this **Gale's Primus Wire** will be sent from Newmarket on Tuesday, May 20th, and

As a Special Offer to "John Bull" readers we will send this Special Wire upon receipt of £10, instead of the usual charge of £25,

and unless the selection sent out is successful, and at reasonable odds, we guarantee to send our next **Tattersall's Ring Wire entirely free of charge.** On the other hand, should the selection win at the odds of not less than 8 to 1 against, subscribers will, of course, forward the balance of £15.

Note that our ONLY address is:—

"Gale's Special,"

Ruskin Buildings, Birmingham

Telegraphic Address: "WINNERS, Birmingham."

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NO LIMIT!

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NOVEL SCHEME ON THE DERBY.
WRITE FOR FULL PARTICULARS.

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A. F. SMALLMAN,
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AND AT LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.
19 HOWARD ST. GLASGOW.

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To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production **within seven days of publication** (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claims have been received:—

Mr. F. H. TOWNSEND, 2, Tiverton Villas, Tiverton Road, Hounslow. April 19th. No. 777,820.

Mr. E. HEATHER, 102, Ditchling Rise, Brighton. April 12th. No. 001,640.

Mr. H. MILLER, 85, Compton Row, Hanhills, Leeds. April 19th. No. 752,273.

Mr. D. M. MONK, Brooklyn, Latchford-Without, Warrington. April 12th. No. 000,762.

Mr. H. A. BROWN, 56, Park Avenue, Palmers Green, N. April 19th. No. 613,138.

Mr. F. CARTER, Tabernacle Road, Hanham, nr. Bristol. April 5th. No. 659,863.

Mr. G. W. FIELD, Elm Tree Cottage, Hampole, Yorks. April 12th. No. 278,467.

Mr. J. W. ELLIS, 1, Rectory Road, Caversham, Reading. April 5th. No. 366,175.

Mr. H. THOMPSON, 240, Doncaster Road, Barnsley. April 12th. No. 700,739.

Mr. A. G. DELL, 3, Kingsland Road, Broadwater, Worthing, Sussex. April 12th. No. 912,775.

Mr. A. G. DIXON, 99, Hope Street, Sheerness-on-Sea. March 15th. No. 403,896.

Mr. L. GRAY c/o Mrs. S. Vernon, Lower Lea, Morple Bridge, Derbyshire. April 19th. No. 214,284.

Mr. T. EOND, "Tintagel," Cyril Street, Taunton. April 19th. No. 074134.

Mrs. E. HOLE, 10, Waungoch, Mantymoel, Glam. April 19th. No. 148384.

Mr. W. J. LONGHURST, 2, Western Road, Maidstone. April 19th. No. 430309.

Mr. J. E. PRINCE EVANS, School House, Sharnbrook, Beds. April 19th. No. 468372.

Mrs. BRIGHTMORE, 16, Grange Road, Buxton. April 19th. No. 987429.

Mr. J. F. AITKEN, 5, York Terrace, Shettleton, near Glasgow. April 19th. No. 562095.

Mr. D. ASCOT, 38, Pillott Grove, Wood Green, N. April 19th. No. 123855.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of May 10th:—

3545	190005	429740	721631	924615
16656	220067	460566	730191	962340
23859	227072	482006	745434	986415
36529	256001	511582	777137	990001
60528	271744	547218	782006	992610
67943	285190	576666	867157	999469
81725	312479	615541	822629	A000215
110037	316996	630191	842412	A007841
125947	342494	662150	894211	A093748
142218	368485	699876	911702	A010700

The A prefixed to the drawn numbers indicates it is plus a million.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED MAY 21ST.

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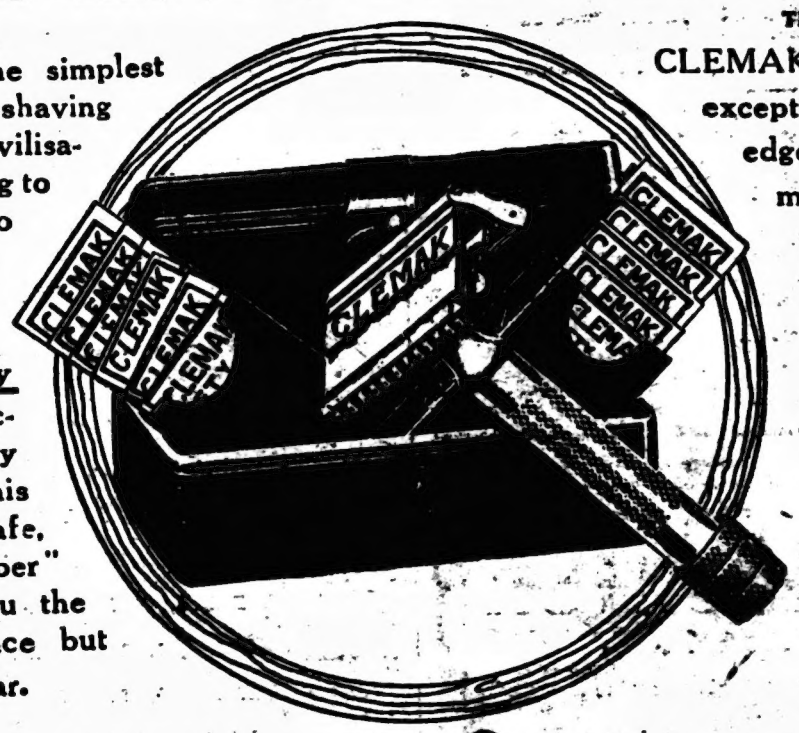

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